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Numbers matter

Older LGBT people will continue to be marginalized, ignored, and stigmatized until true numbers are known and until they all stand up to be counted.

The Elderly Count

By Ed Bomba

Becoming a known quantity is critical for the strength and success of our community, especially as we age.

LGBT people were, historically, an "invisible" minority. That invisibility has protected us on the one hand, but has held us back on the other. Our invisibility has given us the option of staying in the closet, or alternatively and mostly by choice, coming out. That invisibility made it possible for all forms of stereotyping and discrimination to persist. Today, we are more visible, but we remain an unknown quantity.

Becoming a known quantity is critical for the strength and success of our community, especially as we age. Numbers matter in so many different ways that we must take being counted seriously. This does not necessarily mean that everyone must "come out." There are many ways to be counted.

Past attempts to count the number of LGBT people include Dr. Alfred Kinsey's 1948 Sexual Response in the Human Male. That report was interpreted as saying that 10 percent of males were homosexual. Even though that 10 percent figure stuck in the public's mind, Kinsey's research has been discussed, debated, and discredited over the past six decades.

Research is now being conducted that will eventually give a more accurate assessment of the number of LGBT people in the U.S. A major step toward a more accurate count occurred with the 2010 U.S. Census. In that count, for the first time, the Census Bureau reported data about the number of same-sex couples who are married.

Exit polls taken during last month's election showed that 5 percent of all voters nationwide were LGBT Americans. A recent Gallup survey of over 120,000 Americans suggests that 3.4% of Americans "self-identify" as LGBT. This survey showed that 6.4 percent of Americans aged 18 to 29 identified themselves as LGBT, but only 1.9 percent of those over 65 identified the same way.

Whatever the actual number, while LGBT people remain invisible or undercounted, it is possible for all sectors of society to ignore us. Despite gains in recent elections and court rulings, government can and does refuse us equal rights. Service providers and caregivers can discriminate against us and abuse us. Our fellow Americans can discount or invalidate our value as citizens and human beings.

Resources are allocated based on population numbers and demographic statistics. Because there are

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LGBT Caucus Doubles

By Frank Pizzoli

New Poll Results Released

Size matters.

Pennsylvania's LGBT Equality Caucus within the General Assembly now has 58 members within the state Senate and House. That's more than double the 26 number when the group first assembled during the last legislative session. A legislative session lasts two years and a new session began last month.

There are 55 Democrats and 3 Republicans members of the caucus, making the group both bipartisan, and with members in both chambers, bicameral.

"Public opinion is moving rapidly," said caucus co-chair State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny. The opinion he is referring to is reflected in a new statewide poll by Equality Pennsylvania. Results of that organization's fourth poll indicate that "nearly 7 in 10 back equal civil rights" and "more than 60% GOP support on two key bills". The two key bills referred to essentially include measures to provide workplace protections against being fired for being gay, possible now under Pennsylvania laws, and protections in what are called "public accommodations" like renting or buying property, use of hotels and restaurants, and other public venues.

In a press conference Feb. 13, members of the caucus described what looks like a concerted effort to go over state laws "with a fine tooth comb," as State Rep. Brian Sims said, in order to address issues of discrimination, bullying, hate crimes, marriage and civil unions as they relate to sexual orientation and gender identity.

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Could Hbg Mayoral Race Be Over in May?

Miller

Pappenfuse

Thompson

Whoever wins the Primary usually carries the vote in the General Election, barring a successful write-in campaign by an opposing party challenger. Incumbent Mayor Linda Thompson is being challenged by Dan Miller *(see story page 11)* and Eric Pappenfuse *(see story page 10)*

Honey Boo Boo's Uncle Poodle Not So Sweet pg 3

Community Center unveils new programs pg 29

Ben Allatt Runs for City Council pg 17

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Political Update

The T.S.A. disclosed the official Airport Screening Results	
October 2012 Statistics On Airport Screening From The Department Of Homeland Security:	
Terrorists Discovered	0
Transvestites	133
Hernias	1,485
Hemorrhoid Cases	3,172
Enlarged Prostates	8,249
Breast Implants	59,350

PA Same-sex Marriage Poll

A Jan. 30 poll By Quinnipiac University revealed that Pennsylvania voters are divided on same-sex marriage, with 47 percent in favor and 43 percent opposed. Support is 50 - 40 percent among women, while men are divided, with 44 percent in favor and 46 percent opposed. Support is 65 - 27 percent among Democrats and 51 - 38 percent among independent voters. Republicans are opposed 67 - 23 percent.

White Catholics support same-sex marriage 50 - 40 percent while white Protestants are opposed 60 - 31 percent. Voters 18 to 34 years old support same-sex marriage 68 - 25 percent; voters 35 to 54 years old back it 48 - 41 percent. Voters over 55 are opposed 52 - 39 percent. Meanwhile, Freedom to Marry has announced that it will invest $2 million through the 2013 Win More States Fund, with an initial focus on passing freedom to marry legislation in Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. A new University of Hawaii study estimates that passing the freedom to marry bill in that state would boost the economy from $46-$258 million between 2014-2016, among other benefits.

Poll Favorable

Last month's Franklin & Marshall College poll found that on gay marriage, 52 percent of registered voters approve of same-sex marriage, while 41 percent oppose it.

GOProud Launches Pro-Life/Pro-Gay Project

GOProud, an organization of gay conservatives and their straight allies, participated in the Jan. 25 March for Life. The group launched a Pro-Life/Pro-Gay Project. Their mission statement says: GOProud is a national organization of gay and straight Americans who seek to promote freedom by supporting free markets, limited government, and a respect for individual rights. We work on the federal and state level to build strong coalitions of conservative and libertarian activists, organizations and policy makers to advance our shared values and beliefs.

Pittsburgh Hosts Safe Schools Summit

Last month Persad Center, GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network, and PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, hosted a Safe Schools summit in Pittsburgh. The summit focused bullying targeted at lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning students in Pittsburgh schools.

The Safe Schools Project was created to respond to the critical issue of youth bullying and suicide. Recent research from GLSEN shows that 75.4% of students hear derogatory remarks specific to their sexual orientation frequently or often at school, and they are 3-4 times more likely to attempt and complete suicide.

Honey Boo Boo's Uncle Felix Not So Sweet?

'Uncle Poodle' HIV prosecution allegations raise serious questions

By Todd A. Heywood, ViralApartheid.com

The national media recently attached itself to a brief interview by the Atlanta based gay magazine Fenuxe in which Lee Thompson, aka Uncle Poodle of the "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo" show on TLC, announces he is HIV-positive. In the interview he also says he "hesitantly" prosecuted his ex-boyfriend for infecting him with the virus.

The interview left much to be desired in relation to details and facts, and the time frame presented by Thompson related to his positive test and the prosecution, adjudication and sentencing of his ex-partner triggered red flags for many of us who have covered HIV criminal cases, specifically, and the criminal justice system in general.

Lee Thompson, aka Uncle Poodle.
Image Source: Queerty.

Because Thompson does not name the ex-boyfriend, and entertainment blogs about the show and Thompson are mum on the identity of the ex-boyfriend, I spent the last week calling district attorneys and law enforcement in Georgia and Alabama trying to find out where this prosecution happened. Not a single district attorney or law enforcement official I spoke with could find a case to match the facts presented by Thompson, nor could they find a case in which Thompson was the named defendant.

Honey Boo-Boo

Does that mean Thompson lied? Not necessarily, but it does raise serious questions. First, Thompson lives in Alabama, where, according to Lambda Legal, transmission of HIV is a Class C Misdemeanor punishable by no more than 90 days in jail and/or a $500 fine. Lambda reports Georgia's law is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. It is unclear where Thompson lived in May of 2012, so I inquired with law enforcement and district attorneys in both states and in every county I could identify as linked to the show and Thompson's family. It is conceivable that Thompson's case was adjudicated in another county in Georgia, but very, very unlikely that case was conducted in Alabama.

But, here were the red flag issues raised by the original Fenuxe interview:

1. Thompson says he tested negative at the end of March 2012, then tested again in May of 2012. The May result was positive. Thompson does not provide a date of the positive result, nor of the confirmatory result. He does not identify which test he was tested with. The CDC requires positive test results for rapid testing -- the so-called 20 minute test -- be confirmed by a blood drawn test series of three tests: ELISA, ELISA, Western Blott.

2. Thompson claims he was "advised" he should press charges, but does not say who advised that.

3. Thompson provides no information related to how long of a time there was between his confirmatory test result and the time he met with health officials for partner notification and epidemiology interviews. In many busy jurisdictions, this time can be as many as 6 or 8 weeks.

4. Thompson indicates that by Jan. 10, 2013 (when the interview was published on Fenuxe) that his ex-partner had been investigated, charged, adjudicated and sentenced. Presuming for a moment that he tested positive on May 1, 2012, that means the entire criminal justice process was completed in 7 months. That just doesn't fit with the most recent statistics related to time from arrest to sentencing from the U.S. Department of Justice (from 2006):

"Among felons sentenced in state courts during 2006, an estimated 4% were sentenced within 1 month following their arrest, 14% were sentenced within 3 months of their arrest, 33% were sentenced within 6 months of their arrest, and 67% were sentenced within 12 months of their arrest (table 4.5). The median time from arrest to sentencing for all felony convictions was 265 days. The median days from arrest to sentencing was longest for murder (505 days) and sexual assault (348 days) convictions."

Obviously, there are some serious red flags. I reached out to the production company that produces

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guest editorial

It's Still About Policy, Not People

By David Mixner

When I was living in Los Angeles in the 1980's Kevin James was a liberal openly gay Democrat. He protested in the streets Governor Wilson's veto of a LGBT rights bill. Kevin was one of the most effective fundraiser's in the battle for LGBT rights and to stop HIV/AIDS. A significant number of LGBT community and political organizations had him on their board.

Times change and so did Kevin James.

James became a well known talk show host who was increasingly conservative and provocative in his views. While becoming more conservative and even outrageous on issues he has always supported marriage equality, the right to choice and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Now he is the Republican running to be Mayor of Los Angeles.

The New York Times in an article by Adam Nagourney reported on his race this weekend. Here are two excerpts:

"Kevin L. James, a conservative talk show host running for mayor of Los Angeles, was sitting in his campaign office recently pondering which was his bigger obstacle to victory: being openly Republican, or being openly gay.

"Depending on what room you're in here, sometimes it's easier coming out gay to Republicans than it is coming out Republican to gays," he said.

By any measure, Mr. James, 49, is a bit of a long shot. He is a Republican brassy former prosecutor running in a Democratic city at a time when California is marching steadily to the left, making his first bid for office in a field of establishment candidates.

Yet in the first major election since President Obama's victory in November — voting that relegated the California Republican Party to the margins — Mr. James has become, at least for a few national Republicans, something of a lifeline. They see in his candidacy in the March 5 vote an outside chance to grab what could be a spirit-lifting victory, and perhaps even signal a way to get back in the game in California.

Fred Davis, a Republican ad producer based in the Hollywood Hills who worked for the presidential campaign of Senator John McCain, created a political action committee to finance an advertising campaign to help Mr. James compete with his better-financed competitors. Mr. Davis was looking to raise $4 million from Republicans across the nation; he has since scaled back that goal a bit (he had raised $700,000 as of Friday).

And Mr. James has retained John Weaver, a Republican political consultant who has long advised Mr. McCain, as his senior political adviser. Mr. Weaver has increasingly warned that Republicans are marginalizing themselves by moving to the right on issues like abortion, gay rights and immigration.

"He is from central casting about what a future Republican candidate can look like in an urban or blue state and win," Mr. Weaver said. "It's important for the party. We have not done well nationally since we stopped winning in California."

Mr. James's draw for these men is not only that he is a fiscal conservative who supports abortion rights and same-sex marriage, or that he is a colorful show horse in a field of gray. (At a debate the other night, he kept standing up when it was his turn to speak, even as everyone else settled politely into their chairs.)

****

"On the national stage, he is the perfect example of the Republican dilemma," said Bill Carrick, a Democratic consultant advising one of Mr. James's Democratic rivals, Eric Garcetti, a member of the City Council. "He has to both energize a shrinking base of Republican voters who are decidedly more conservative than the rest of the city's electorate, at the same time he reaches out to the ultimate Democratic voters. It's a hell of a challenge."

But Mr. James could well affect the final outcome here. Given Mr. Davis's effort and the crowded field, Mr. James is positioned to squeeze his way into a two-way runoff this spring. If he does, it will probably be at the expense of Wendy Greuel, the city comptroller, who is competing for the same votes in the San Fernando Valley where Mr. James has a constituency. Mr. James has directed most of his attacks against her.

Whether he could beat a Democrat in a two-way race — polls suggest that the opponent would be Mr. Garcetti — is decidedly less likely."

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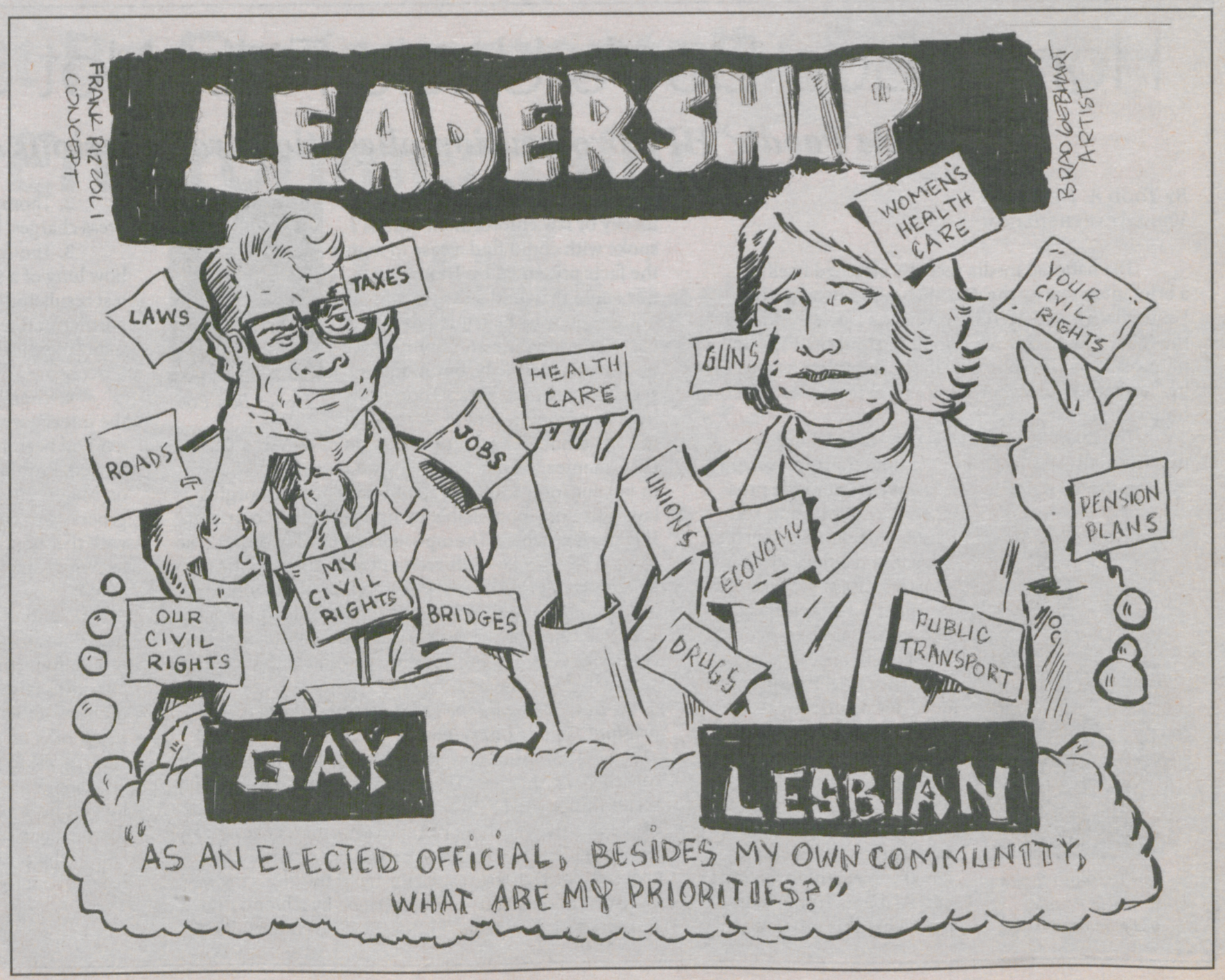


Allocating Pennsylvania's Electoral Votes

By Barry Kaufman, Common Cause/ Pennsylvania

Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi plans to introduce legislation this month to change the way Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes are allocated in the 2016 presidential campaign and beyond. Pileggi has indicated his proposal would apportion electors based on the results of the statewide popular vote so that the candidate receiving a popular vote majority or plurality would receive a comparable share of electors. This would be a major departure from the winner-take-all system for awarding electors now in place in Pennsylvania and 47 other states.

The proportional division of electors and the current winner-take-all system share two fundamental flaws: Both would permit the loser of the national popular vote tally to "win" the election and take office as President; both also would push candidates to keep most of their attention focused on just a handful of states, denying voters elsewhere an opportunity to effectively participate in the election.

Common Cause believes that's unacceptable.

This memo explores the Pileggi proposal and two alternatives being offered in debates over the future of the Electoral College in Pennsylvania and around the nation. It demonstrates that only one option, the National Popular Vote plan, would deliver real reform. Only this option will guarantee that the candidate chosen by the people in November is the President taking office in January and that all Americans have a voice in the election.

Proportional Allocation of Electors (the Pileggi plan): This system would divide electoral votes based on each candidate's percentage of the popular vote. It appears to be fairer than the current system, but appearances are deceiving. In fact, proportional allocation would distort and perhaps even reverse the judgment voters render on Election Day. Like the current system, it would have elected George W. Bush in 2000, even though he finished about 500,000 votes behind Al Gore in the national popular vote tally.

The problem is part math, part physics. Because Pennsylvania has 20 electors, each candidate under the Pileggi plan would be entitled to 1 electoral vote for approximately every 5 percent of the popular vote received. Individual electoral votes can't be divided however, so a candidate winning a 51-49 advantage in the popular vote would be forced into a 10-10 Electoral College tie.

In smaller states, things get even crazier. In New Hampshire, with just four electors, even a 60-40 split in the popular vote would produce a 2-2 electoral tie, a huge boost for the popular vote loser. Thirty-four of the 50 states have 10 electors or less. To gain even a 1 vote edge in the electoral tally in any of them, a candidate would have to score a popular vote landslide on Election Day. That reality would drive candidates to focus their attention on just a few, heavily populated states – think California, Texas, New York and Florida – where they could gain additional electors with relatively small increases in their party's usual popular vote. Because California has 55 electors for example, each is equivalent to only 1.8 percent of the popular vote.

The other major problem with proportional allocation is partisan. The plan's current supporters – all Republicans -- are pushing it only in a few, selected states, where their party's candidates have been unsuccessful in recent presidential elections. They want to retain the winner-take-all system in other states, creating an Electoral College hodge-podge that would tilt the election in their favor. Democrats, it should be noted, have flirted with similar schemes in the past.

In Pennsylvania, where President Obama outpolled Mitt Romney by 5 percentage points and more than 300,000 votes on Election Day, the Pileggi plan would have given Romney 9 of the state's 20 electors. But in North Carolina, which is retaining the winner-take-all system, President Obama would walk away with none of the state's 15 electors despite the fact that he came within 100,000 votes – less than 2 percent – of claiming a majority on Election Day.

Allocation by Congressional District: This system would award each candidate 1 elector for each Congressional District in which he or she won the most popular votes. Two at-large electors would be awarded to the statewide winner. This system is in use in two states, Maine and Nebraska, and of late has been or is being considered in several others (Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin, Florida, and Michigan) where Republicans controlling the statehouse have seen their presidential candidates repeatedly lose the statewide popular vote.

Their statehouse advantages allowed Republicans in those states to reshape Congressional districts in 2011 and '12 to benefit GOP candidates. Virginia Republicans, for example, now control 8 of the state's 11 districts, each of which was carried last fall by Mitt Romney even as he ran 140,000 votes behind President Obama statewide. Allocation of Virginia's 13 electors by district would have given Romney 8 votes to just 5 for Obama, reversing the judgment of the voters. In Pennsylvania, where Romney carried 13 of 18 districts while losing statewide by 310,000 votes, district allocation would have given him 13 of the state's 20 electors. Had it been in place nationwide, district allocation would have made Romney President, with 276 electors, even though Obama outpolled him on Election Day by more than 5 million votes.

The obvious partisan considerations behind district allocation proposals in these states have driven several of the governors involved to back away. Sen. Pileggi reportedly was considering a district plan in Pennsylvania but apparently has abandoned it as too transparently partisan.

The National Popular Vote Compact:. Eight states and the District of Columbia, with a total of 132 electoral votes, have adopted the National Popular Vote Compact. Under its terms, participating states agree that once states possessing a total of 270 electors – a majority – have signed on, all will cast their electoral votes for the candidate receiving a majority of the national popular vote, guaranteeing his or her election.

Under the national popular vote plan, votes cast in small states and large states, "red" states and "blue" states, would have equal value. The current incentive for candidates to focus on just a few "swing" states like Florida, Ohio and Virginia would disappear, making presidential campaigns truly national.

The U.S. Constitution gives state governments authority to decide how their electors will be allocated[1] and permits them to enter into compacts with other states.[2] There are legal questions over whether implementation of the National Popular Vote Compact also would require Congressional approval; a detailed study last year by George Mason University law professor Michael Brody concluded that the states could act on their own.[3]

Most importantly, the compact is the only plan that ensures that the candidate chosen by "we the people" will be sworn in as President. As recently as 2000, the candidate finishing second on Election Day – George W. Bush – nevertheless gained an electoral vote majority and the presidency. Four years later, a switch of just 59,393 votes in Ohio would have delivered the state's electors and the White House to John Kerry, with 271 electoral votes, even though Bush outpolled him nationally by more than 3 million.

Info: www.nationalpopularvote.com.

voice box

GENTLY PROVOCATIVE
I appreciated your thoughtful and gently provocative publisher's note "It's About Policy, Not People" in the Jan.-Feb. issue. There were many good points to consider. And of course another nice issue overall, as usual.

Trum Simmons

TOO MUCH ABOUT DIVERSITY?
From a recent student newspaper office about how to cover Black History and Women's History months – "The only African American in the room started things off by saying she didn't think we needed these special months…She thought we should be over concentrating on skin color by now, and she said the United States divides people by talking so much about diversity." ***(See Ally in the Academy, page 6)***

DIVERSIFY DIVERSITY?
From last month's NYC ACT UP agenda sent to Central Voice: "Part of the problem is that young lgbt people don't just identify as lgbt; that's not their prime identity anymore; ACT UP won't grow unless it reaches beyond privileged groups; AIDS activism is bigger than an LGBT thing; is it a vital thing in 2013.

EXCELLENT ISSUE
Just wanted to commend you on an excellent issue of the Voice! I read all the news and then I got very carried away reading about Columbus, OH. Makes me want to plan a road trip ASAP!

David Morrison

WHAT THEY SAID
When the Boy Scouts of America's national governing board delayed until May their decision anticipated on Feb. 6 on whether or not to remove a ban on gay Scouts and leaders, here's what the region's lgbt leaders said:
"pretty cowardly…They know what to do…They should just make the decision now"…the delayed action sends a clear message to young, gay people that something is "intrinsically wrong with them."

Equality Pennsylvania executive director Ted Martin:
"young Americans" are hurt by the organization's "inaction."…"Now is the time to make this change"…Everyday that the Boy Scouts of America delays making this change is another day that discrimination is allowed."

LGBT Community Center of Central Pennsylvania director Louie Marven

CHICKEN LITTLE
I think Harrisburg City should bill a double-header, sell tickets to raise money for its debt. Right after the live horse vs. the stuffed buffalo hearing, they schedule the Egg Man Case, with a special appearance by the chicken who laid the egg.

A Reader

E-mail your thoughts to Central VOICE posops@aol.com

Pension Bomb to Hit Pennsylvania Families

By Nathan A. Benefield

Are you ready to pay an additional $1,000 in state and local taxes alone? Prepared to see your child's teacher laid off? Thanks to bad promises politicians made to good people, a pension crisis facing Pennsylvania threatens our American way of life, homes, cities and schools.

Already, nearly 6,000 classroom teachers in Pennsylvania public schools received pink slips over the past two school years. This unprecedented trend, following years in staff growth, will likely worsen due to skyrocketing pension costs with no financial safety net built in to protect good teachers.

What's more, homeowners will get socked with the pension bomb too—for benefits that were promised by politicians but never paid for. School districts' pension payments (which only cover half the required payments) will rise substantially over the next four years. For school districts across the state, that cost increase comes to approximately $346 per homeowner. But those local cost increases will vary by district, from as low as $102 in Saint Clair Area district to $882 per homeowner in Reading city school district.

As scary as that seems, it is but the tip of this woeful economic iceberg. State government's pension costs (for state employees and half of school employees' pensions) are expected to rise by more than $2.5 billion over the next four years—or $523 annually per household.

That is, many families will pay more than $1,000 in additional taxes for pension debt we accumulated over the past decade, and get nothing more for their money.

So how did we get into this mess? Very simply, it is the culmination of a series of bad politics and policy decisions.

In 2001, following an economic boom, politicians thought pensions were well-funded and stock market gains would continue indefinitely, so they decided to boost pension benefits for themselves and government workers—even doing so retroactively. When the stock market dropped, lawmakers erred again by voting to put off paying for those losses for years.

Those bills are now coming due, and exacerbated by the big investment losses in 2008. But one can understand why lawmakers made the choices they did. There's a big political payoff for boosting benefits as government unions lobbied heavily for those changes.

And there's little downside to delaying payments (with government unions lobbying for those changes, too). Those costs will be paid through generational theft, foisted upon our children and grandchildren, who are still too young to vote.

Ultimately, the only solution is to get politics out of pensions. This can only happen by moving from traditional pensions, where taxpayers provide a guaranteed government income for life, to a retirement plan popular in the private sector, similar to a 401(k).

In a 401(k), which most private companies switched to decades ago, lawmakers can't play politics. If they promise to contribute six percent of salary, they must put that in, and can't defer those costs to our kids and grandkids. Further, 401(k)-style plans are predictable for elected officials, allowing them to plan for all costs and avoid massive property tax hikes, and they're affordable for taxpayers.

Moreover, 401(k) plans offer more convenience for workers. Younger workers especially will benefit from the ability to take a 401(k) with them as they change jobs instead of forfeiting retirement savings to advance their career. Older adults can pass their remaining 401(k) onto their children, whereas pension payouts end when retirees die, even if they paid in more than they collected. And all workers will benefit from a sustainable retirement system that will actually be there when they retire.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh County) last session would place all new state and school employees in a 401(k)-style retirement plan. As they say, "when you're in a hole, stop digging," and this legislation would stop digging a deeper pension hole and empower new government employees to have ownership over their retirement.

However, this reform doesn't pay off the pension shortfall we've already built up by overpromising pensions. These costs will continue to burden state taxpayers, schools and local governments for years.

Lawmakers must recognize the impact the pension bomb will have on Pennsylvania, and show courage to defuse it before the fallout reaches our already stressed families. They must resist the urge to repeat the spending splurge of years past, create new programs, or throw money at problems. Moreover, to find funding for pensions without raising taxes on working families, lawmakers must find significant savings through prevailing wage reform, ending corporate welfare, and tackling bloated and wasteful welfare spending.

Today, the pension bomb facing Pennsylvania threatens homeowners with massive tax hikes and school teachers and other government workers with layoffs. If our children and grandchildren are to have a prosperous tomorrow, they can't afford any more missteps from their leaders. Defusing the pension bomb, for their sake, must be job number one for state lawmakers this year.

Nathan A. Benefield is director of policy analysis with the Commonwealth Foundation (www.CommonwealthFoundation.org), Pennsylvania's free-market think tank.

Ally in the Academy

By Trum Simmons

What does it mean to be an educated person?

I'm teaching my lbgtq studies class this spring, and we're off to a great start. A record 36 students are registered, and they are a lively and diverse bunch. There's a wide age range, we have ethnic diversity, and it's a mix of lgbtq people and straight allies. A perfect mix.

I came here in 1971, and my professors at graduate school told me this sounded like a good first job. It has been a good first job, and I realize I'm the last of a dying breed—42 years at one college. That kind of career is not going to be possible in the coming decades, given current trends in higher education.

Today, as in every decade I've been teaching, the nature and value of college education are being debated. People are asking if a college education is worth the expense, and the liberal arts in particular are being questioned. Just what should students be learning in college?

Drexel University recently developed a "Culture of Assessment," which is a new way of talking about general-education objectives or outcomes; the professors and administrators have come up with 12 "Student Learning Outcomes."

Most of these are obvious, such as Technology Use: "Make appropriate use of technologies to communicate and collaborate"; Global Competence: "Demonstrate open mindedness toward all issues of diversity at the local, national and international level"; Research, Scholarship, and Creative Expression: "Make meaningful contributions in their chosen field."

Global Competence, which includes all issues of diversity, is something that was not on such lists 41 years ago, or even 20 years ago. It shows we have come a long way. HACC had no course in queer studies until I helped create one in 2000, and it took decades for us to offer courses like Native American Literature.

This writer/professor also created the literature course Women Writers in 1978, so I have been valuing global competence for some time. Yep, a man teaching women writers! Some of my colleagues wondered if was qualified to teach the class, but my women students didn't seem to mind. For the past few years an actual woman has stepped up to teach the class, and she too is doing a fine job of it.

This column is Part One of two parts, for what it means to be educated is a complex subject, and I want to be both comprehensive and clear in my analysis. And as professors and pundits have a reputation of being pompous and long-winded I don't want to fulfill any stereotypes!

A recent conversation in our student newspaper office about how to cover Black History and Women's History months is a good example of challenges facing today's teachers and learners.

The only African American in the room started things off by saying she didn't think we needed these special months. Further, she said, the election of our first black president in 2008 was not a big deal, and too many people voted for him simply because he is black. She thought we should be over concentrating on skin color by now, and she said the United States divides people by talking so much about diversity.

Well—this created quite a reaction from the rest of the group, which was composed of several white males and three women, one of whom is Hispanic. The next hour saw a passionate exchange of views, all based very much on each individual's life experience. There was a lot of heat—and some light, and I had my work cut out for me in moderating the discussion, trying to make sure everyone was heard and keep things at least somewhat on track. I loved it.

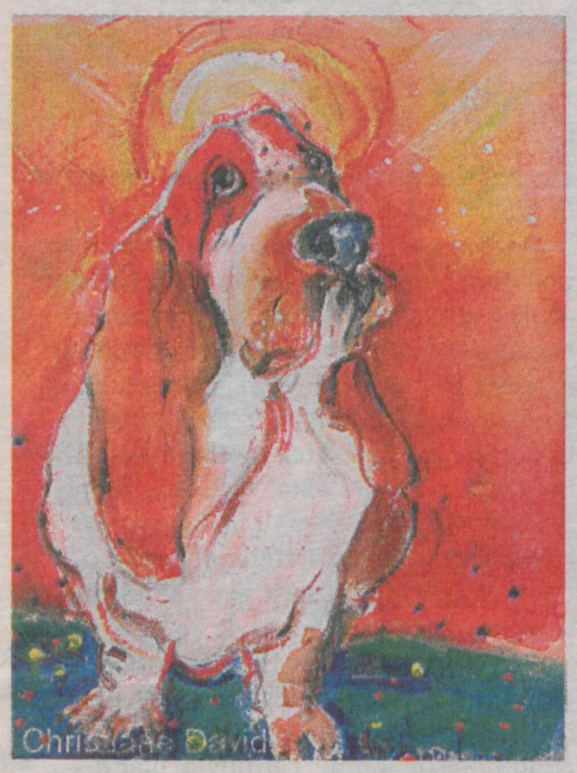
As I noted, the students based their views on their life experience, which meant there were many good insights, but also too many poorly informed—i.e., uneducated—opinions. I love explaining the difference between informed opinion off-the-top opinion to my classes. And then there is the difference between received opinion and considered opinion. Opinion is not simply opinion.

Back to Drexel's list. Creative and critical thinking is another learning priority, as are ethical reasoning and responsible citizenship, and these I'd like to discuss in the next Ally column. Just think—by then we will have finished Black History and Women's History months, which after all, are simply American history. Let's hope we will have learned something new about our country by May.

Trum Simmons is senior professor of English at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) and adviser of The Fourth Estate, the Harrisburg campus student newspaper. He also advises HACC Allies, the LGBTQA student organization.

Christiane David Gallery Showcases Cute Critters

Christiane David Gallery was alive with lots of cute critters last month when the gallery presented "Dogs and Animals Galore". David has always had a special bond with animals and the emotion she feels for them comes through on the canvas as well as a bit of whimsy, which always brings a smile to the viewer. Info: 717-293-0809; FineArt@ChristianeDavid.com.



DEAR GUYS WHO LIKE GUYS
AND GALS WHO LIKE GALS,

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WITH LOVE,
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WOMEN TAKE THE WHEEL
3/1/2013-3/31/2013
AACA Museum
161 Museum Drive Hershey, Pa 17033
www.aacamuseum.org
$10 admission
AACA Museum: 717-566-7100
Women take the Wheel March 1-31, 2013. Today, over 100 years after the automobile first liberated drivers from horse-drawn buggies, women drive to work, shuttle the kids, and even hold powerful positions in the automotive related industries. No one bats an eye. However, at the turn of the century, only a few women worked outside the home and even fewer owned and drove cars. Victorian women were viewed as too fragile to deal with public affairs, participate in strenuous activity, or operate complex machinery - such as automobiles. However, the automobile - first symbol of male power and control - became the perfect vehicle for feminine revolt. For these women, the automobile provided opportunities for work, inventions, adventure and independence. In recognition of Women's History Month, the AACA Museum will focus on women who made automotive history - and possibly steered the course for who we are today.

MD, VA Tackle Bias, Trans Rights

Lawmakers in Maryland and Virginia are considering a number of lgbt-specific issues during their respective legislative sessions that began last month. Maryland legislators are expected to consider a bill that would ban anti-transgender discrimination in the workplace, housing and public accommodations. Virginia lawmakers are poised to consider a measure banning lgbt discrimination against state employees.

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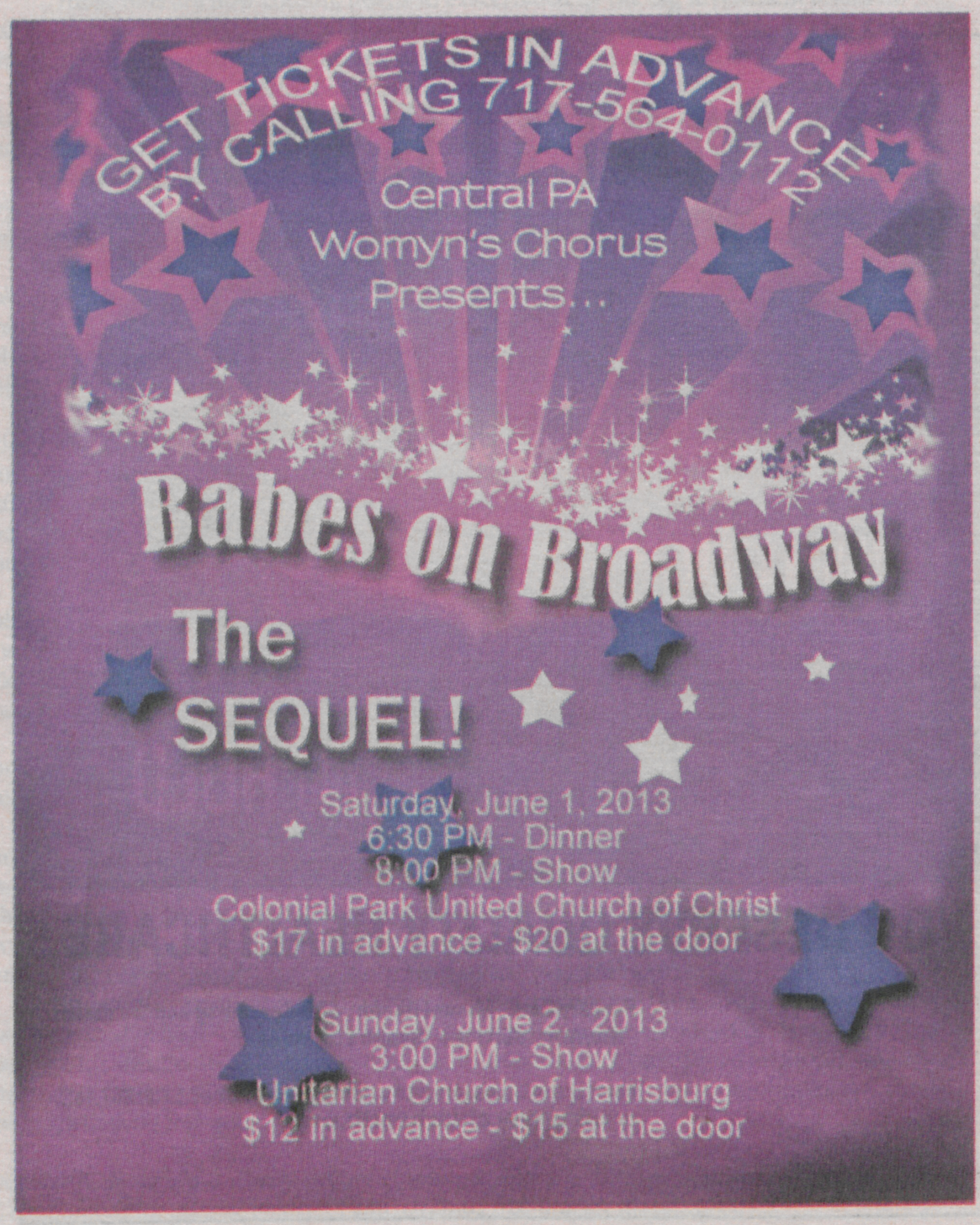

your voice

EPA Dirty Diesel Rule a Free Pass

Submitted by Sierra Club, PennFuture

PennFUTURE
Every environmental victory grows the economy.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a set of regulations that create large loopholes for dirty diesel and gas electricity generators. The rule, called National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Stationary Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (RICE), allows diesel based electricity generators to expand their hours of operation without installing serious protections to clean up dangerous environmental toxins.

"Public health suffered a serious blow today with these loopholes for dirty diesel and gas generators. Although EPA made some progress by cutting back on some of the loopholes they initially proposed and tightening up reporting and cleaner fuel requirements, this rule still represents an enormous gift to polluters at the public's expense," said Christina Simeone, director of the PennFuture Energy Center.

Several years ago, EPA adopted rules limiting the amount of air toxics emissions – like formaldehyde and benzene – that are released from small diesel and gas fired generators. The units covered in today's decision generate electricity at sites all around the country from farms, to oil refineries, to factories and the EPA estimates that there are over 1 million of these generators active in the US today.

"No one should get a free pass on air pollution," said Liz Perera a senior policy analyst at the Sierra Club. "Pollution that harms our families and our communities, whether from a small local generator or a major plant, should be treated equally under the law. Don't tell mothers that the only way to ensure a stable electric supply is to put their kids' health in danger. We have the technology to filter out most of the pollutants from these generators and it's irresponsible for us not to do so."

According to the EPA, pollution from diesel generators is known to cause, or contribute to, a myriad of dangerous health conditions including: cardiovascular disease, aggravation of respiratory conditions, premature death in people who suffer from heart and lung disease, and it is suspected of causing cancer.

Stonewall Inaugural Speech Mention Not New

Following President Obama's second inaugural speech, The Huffington Post interviewed presidential speechwriter Jon Faveau, who penned Obama's second inaugural speech.

An excerpt from the interview: The lines about gay rights -- and, in particular, the reference to the 1969 Stonewall Riots – were more complicated additions, but still, ultimately, an easy call.

"Up until the weekend before the speech we hadn't thought that Stonewall would be such a big deal," said Favreau. "We had just come from this campaign where we talked about gay rights all the time. The line about Stonewall and Selma and Seneca Falls was actually in the commencement speech he gave at Barnard [in 2012]. And so we brought it back for this because it hadn't gotten much attention at all."

"We knew we wanted to pay tribute to [Martin Luther] King in some way. So it kind of fit right there," he added. "Before he gave the speech, I'm like, I actually think this is going make some news because it's probably the first time a president has mentioned the word "gay" or "Stonewall" in an inaugural speech."

Sen. Casey Urges Passage of Violence Against Women Act

"I'm hopeful that Congress will move forward with this bill and get it to the President," said PA Sen. Bob Casey. The act contains language targeting campus sexual violence and protections for underserved communities, including those defined by sexual orientation and gender identity, who would receive equal treatment under the act. The act also improves protections for immigrant women subject to abusive or violent marriages. The bill is a reauthorization of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, last year rejected by the US House.

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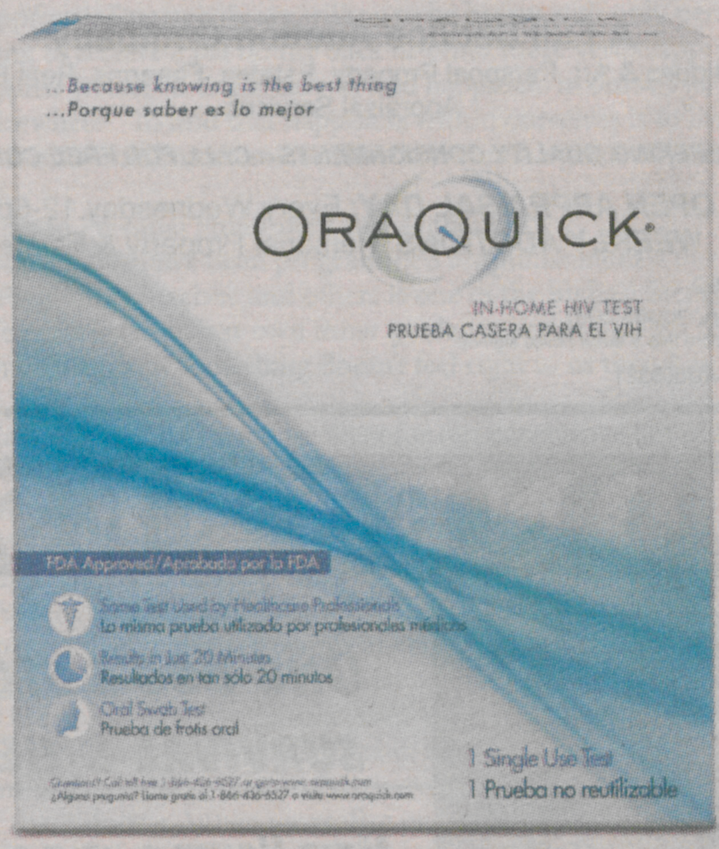

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Eric Papenfuse Runs for Harrisburg Mayor

Eric Papenfuse

Eric Papenfuse announced Feb. 5 that he is running for the office of Harrisburg Mayor in the Primary Election as a Democrat.

From a podium in his popular Midtown headquarters, Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Papenfuse told a crowd of about 100 people his campaign motto is "Together We Can."

At the announcement, people were invited to get on camera by expressing thoughts on living in Harrisburg, including suggestions for restoring safety and prosperity to the city. "The video filming allowed people to tell our campaign how to better serve them," Papenfuse said.

Papenfuse tells Central Voice he wants to be mayor for a simple reason. "I want to help restore pride and prosperity to Pennsylvania's capital city," he said.

Besides a crossroads of the community bookstore known as Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Papenfuse's campaign material indicates he has created more than 200 jobs in the past decade and currently has a diverse workforce of more than 60 employees. His company is among the region's largest national and international shippers of academic books. He has made Harrisburg his home.

"Like most residents of the city, I know Harrisburg can be much more than it has become. He believes solid leadership is needed most and he's "ready to take on that challenge."

> ***"I want to help restore pride and prosperity to Pennsylvania's capital city"***
>
> **Papenfuse**

There's been endless discussion around whether or not the city should have the ability to declare bankruptcy, at least as a negotiating tool. Papenfuse hopes bankruptcy won't be in the city's future. "I have confidence that with solid leadership, Harrisburg can tackle the debt issue without the blemish of bankruptcy in its history," he said. "With people working together and in good faith, we can solve the debt crisis and turn the page."

Selling assets is topic going round and round as the city tries to define a workable recovery plan. Does Papenfuse favor the sale of assets in order to balance the city's books? Are there alternatives?

"I favor working with the state Receiver to figure out the best plan to relieve Harrisburg of its massive debt," Papenfuse said. "The main thing is to protect Harrisburg residents as much as possible so they do not bear all of the financial burden alone."

Is there a way to bring the city's entire fiscal picture together, a picture that includes the "in debt" school district and city services? The situation reflects two big failing budgets that affect residents, the business community, and potential city investors. Yet problems and proposed solutions are offered and acted upon in separate corridors.

Papenfuse says "The truth is, the city doesn't control all of these issues, and the mayor can't solve them all alone. But you do need a leader who can work collaboratively with the power brokers and business people, who can develop a relationship of respect and trust with leaders of neighboring areas, and who has the ability to think long-term and strategically."

He thinks the first step is "to forge alliances necessary to develop new sources of revenue, attract business to the city and ensure our residents can not only survive, but thrive."

Papenfuse wants to stress two main points. "We need a mayor who understands the importance of building coalitions. And we need a mayor who understands the problems facing Harrisburg, and who has the competence, civility and compassion to bring people together to solve them." The mayor, he says, is not only an administrator, but must also be a goodwill ambassador.

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300 Mayors Join Same-sex Marriage Campaign

Mayors from across the country last month attended a reception during the U.S. Conference of Mayors' annual meeting commemorating the first anniversary of a campaign that features city executives who support marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, lesbian Houston Mayor Annise Parker, gay Gainesville (Fla.) Mayor Craig Lowe and Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn are among those who attended the reception. "No mayor in this country should allow their residents — their constituents — to be discriminated against," St. Paul (Minn.) Mayor Chris Coleman said. "This is a seminal moment in this country where the tide has turned and I don't think there's any turning back on this one."

Dan Miller Ready for Mayor's Race

By Frank Pizzoli

If pressing the flesh is an elected official's stock in trade, then Dan Miller should have calloused hands.

The former city council member and current elected city controller, Miller is challenging incumbent Mayor Linda Thompson in a race that usually turns on Primary Election results.

This year's election is May 21, in a city that historically has had a strong registered Democratic Party voting advantage. Whoever wins the Primary usually carries the vote in the General Election, barring a successful write-in campaign by an opposing party challenger, in this case a Republican or Independent.

Miller has completed nearly 20 meet and greet sessions in city homes, delivered remarks before the Penn Environment group, Allison Hill Ministerium, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, attended Capital Region Greenbelt Association, Asian American, and Friends of Midtown annual dinners, attend two Martin Luther King memorial breakfasts and a Greater Harrisburg NAACP meeting.

Miller's campaign is endorsed by Teamsters Local 776, PA Conference of TeamstersPA Conference of Teamsters, and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

Miller is focused on winning the May 21 election. He's aiming to knock out any other Democratic party or other party challengers in a field of candidates that has swollen then lanced itself due to the realities of electoral politics.

Also hoping to win the Primary is Eric Papenfuse, owner of the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, who announced Feb. 5 that he's running for mayor. That makes for four candidates - incumbent mayor Linda Thomspon, Miller, Lewis Butts Jr. and Papenfuse. Harrisburg city council member Brad Koplinski, long thought to be interested in the mayor's office, has switched gears and announced he is running for Lieutenant Governor.

The relationship between city council and the mayor's office has been rocky for a many consecutive years. Miller tells Central Voice "I have a positive relationship with all current members of city council." They talk regularly, discuss issues freely "and this will not change if I become mayor," Miller stresses. He anticipates that most of those relationships will improve.

Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray told Miller that he, Gray, never has major problems with his council.

"He keeps them informed, listens to their concerns, tries to come to solutions before a bill is sent to council," Miller says. He "values that approach" and plans "to interact with council continuously." A former elected member of Harrisburg City Council, Miller said, "I know what it's like to be on the outside and then be given something to vote on at the last minute."

With the city's long history of fiscal problems, Miller says any solutions "depend on what, if anything, the state-appointed Receiver accomplishes before January 1, 2014, the date beginning a new mayoral term of office.

"It's clear the city cannot sustain $15 million annual deficits," Miller says. As city controller, he has been regularly alerting city residents about what he sees as a climbing structural deficit.

Miller stresses "There is no easy answer but informed financial professionals understand that bankruptcy is clearly our best option." The ability to declare bankruptcy, Miller explains, "will act as a type of 'reset' button allowing Harrisburg to construct a budget where revenues equal or exceed expenses." A balanced budget, or even some extra, "is the baseline upon which to rebuild the future," Miller says. Next comes, he explains, "sound financial decisions and management to provide the basic city services to all residents."

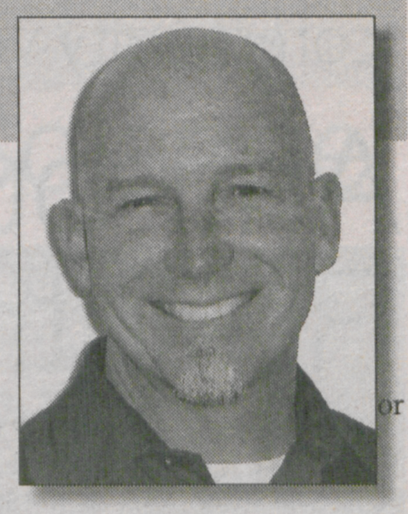
Although not familiar with State Senator Mike Folmer's (48th Dist., Lebanon) proposed bill to appoint a special prosecutor to look into the city's fiscal history surrounding the incinerator, Miller tells Central Voice he does "support a full and complete investigation of the incinerator fiasco."

During her campaign, Miller says, he asked state Attorney General Kathleen Kane to investigate. "Now that she is getting settled in office, I plan to meet with her to discuss an investigation," Miller says.

David Forney and Bob Lomison hosted Friends of Dan Miller in late January. From left, Forney, Dan Miller, city controller running for Harrisburg mayor, and Lomison.

making sense of life

By Dr. Terry Drew Karanen



Be Yourself

To suggest that you should "be yourself" may sound odd if you were anything like me growing up. I was given mixed signals: Be who you are, but don't embarrass us or act in any way that might bring reproach on our religious community. It was a no-win situation at times for me. Invariably being "me" meant a teacher or a minister would complain that I wasn't conforming. Conforming has never been my strong suit.

To "be who we are" is fine until we get muddled up in the expectations of our parents, our partners or society in general. Then we struggle between what we want to do with our lives and what others expect us to do or want us to do. Another question I often hear from clients is, "What if I don't know what I want to be in life or what my purpose is?"

Society today is very different from when I grew up. When I was a child we still held onto the 1950s-style family as what we were supposed to look like, á la Leave it to Beaver. That didn't work so well in our family. I never recall mother serving dinner in our trailer wearing a synched-waist dress and pearls like June Cleaver did on TV. My dad showed up in a t-shirt, not a suit and tie like Beaver's father. Overall we were happy, but the Cleavers we were not.

When we "march to a different drummer," as Henry David Thoreau said, we often fail to receive the approval of others. That can be stressful because we may be looking outside ourselves for approval. Few people are willing to be happy with only personal satisfaction, rather preferring to receive a pat on the back or other more verbal approvals.

Agnes Repplier wrote, "It is not easy to find happiness in ourselves, and it is not possible to find it elsewhere." To find that happiness within ourselves is to live authentically. It is also a path to personal fulfillment and satisfaction. Here's a guide to learning how to do that in everyday life.

Seven-Step Plan to Personal Fulfillment and Authenticity

1 – Let go/Forgive.: We have been programmed for punishment – our own and everyone around us. Forgiving ourselves and others is one of the highest forms of love.

2 – Listen. We must listen to our own inner guidance and those "gut feelings" we experience from time-to-time. If something doesn't feel right to us then it is probably not for us.

3 – Vision. Having a vision of what we want for our experience out of life gives us a foundation upon which to build. A vision is more than a desire, hope or goal. It is a basic statement of who we are as an individual.

4 – Action. Will we pursue happiness or create it? Once we establish our vision or purpose in life the next step is to develop clear-cut goals. Part of that process is refusing to let problems and challenges get us down.

5 – Achievement. I find that more people are afraid of success than there are people truly afraid of failure. Most of us know how to deal with failure and sometimes disaster in our lives. Few of us are prepared for huge successes. When our plans are fulfilled and we reach our goals we do well to learn how to rejoice in that achievement.

6 – Enjoyment. If the majority of our lives have been about struggle then it might be difficult to let go of that mindset. When we realize our goals and have success we must take time to acknowledge the accomplishment and enjoy the results.

7 - What's Next? Like our PA Turnpike system, "The roadway to fulfillment is always under construction!" Success becomes easier and more a part of our lives as we live authentically. When we are expressing who we are without reservation it is like opening the flood gates of opportunity. As we accomplish goals we continue the process to more happiness, greater success and personal fulfillment.

You are a marvelous creation of Infinite Intelligence. There is only one you. You already have within you all you need to accomplish your hopes, dreams, goals and vision. Take advantage of your special qualities to bless the planet and everyone around you with the unique way you express life.

Dr. Terry is a licensed social worker in private practice. He is also the spiritual leader of Unity of Harrisburg. For more information, see: newthoughtpa.org and unityofharrisburg.org

County Approves Domestic Partner Registry

Florida's Pinellas County commissioners recently created a domestic registry which gives unmarried couples, gay and straight, legal recognition of their relationships. Harrisburg city controller Dan Miller, while serving on city council, put a Partner Registry into place which allows unmarried couples, gay and straight, and gay couples married in other states that recognize same-sex unions, to form register their relationships. Miller is running for mayor of the city in the May 2013 Primary Election against incumbent Mayor Linda Thompson.

The Pinellas County law allows couples to register as domestic partners, giving them the right to visit each other in the emergency room, make health care decisions for each other in a crisis and, depending on their employers, share health insurance coverage.

Similarly, Harrisburg's registry allows couples to make legal documentation of their relationship.

Anti-bulling Bill Re-introduced

Pennsylvania State Rep. Dan Truitt, R-Chester, has re-introduced the Pennsylvania Safe Schools Act (H.B. 156). Essentially, the measure deals with the growing problem of bullying in schools.

Re-introduction of the measure has drawn support from newly-elected, openly gay State Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila., who is hoping to round up support.

In an email to all of his House Democratic colleagues, Sims urged them to co-sponsor the bill. Sims told his colleagues, "As many of you can imagine, as a member of the lgbt community myself, such measures are something that I am particularly attuned to. The fact remains that young members of the lgbt community (or those perceived to be) are bullied and otherwise discriminated against at alarming rates. Every study that looks to analyze the impact of bullying has shown there to be lasting, and extremely detrimental effects that can stay with a person for a lifetime."

In a statement State Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, said "As someone who's been introducing legislation to protect lgbt men and women for more than a decade, I recognize the importance of this legislation. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians must be free from discrimination whether that's in the workplace, or in the classroom."

Frankel noted that at a recent summit held in Pittsburgh that drew 200 people together to discuss bullying the group learned that more than 90 % of the anti-bullying policies don't mention explicit protections for lgbt youth. "And researchers from Duquesne University found that many students don't even recognize that they're behaving like bullies to their fellow students," Frankel said.

"Obviously, our schools need assistance in crafting stronger policies. I'm supportive of any bill that will help bring us closer to equality for Pennsylvania residents," Frankel said.

NYC Mayor Ed Koch

Former New York City Mayor, closeted homosexual, died Feb. 1 at age 88. His death spawned controversial online discussions about his closeted life and his having neglected to act swiftly when AIDS hit New York City. Some have connected his closeted life with his inability to act on AIDS for fear his secret (which wasn't a big secret even then) would become public.

The New York Daily News included this in their story about Koch's sexuality: "We must never forget that this man was an active participant in helping us to die, in murdering us," playwright Larry Kramer wrote in 2012. Activist Bill Dobbs said: "Koch's rotten leadership on AIDS got a lot of gay men mad, the gay rumors added more fuel. That anger finally boiled over into a stunning wave of activism that saved lives – ACT UP/New York. Ironically, the lack of any openly gay or lesbian politicians back then probably helped the anger get even hotter."

Jimmy Breslin
WHEN IRISH EYES ARE CLOSED / Page 2
New York Newsday
Koch
'I'm Heterosexual'
Discusses Issue, Says Subject's Closed
Byrne Murder Trial
Witness Testifies in Cop Killing / Page 4
Token Booth Torched
Clerk Escapes 'Worst Nightmare' / Page 5

The image is from March 16, 1989, New York Newsday. Image credit: Jonthan Ned Katz.

Another observer : "History will not be kind to Koch and his shameful neglect and inaction on AIDS. There are too many dead bodies to count for anything other than a harsh assessment of how he ignored the epidemic."

Rep. Sims Appointed to 3 Committees

PA State Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila., has been appointed to serve on three House committees: Commerce, Professional Licensure and State Government.

House Democratic Leader Frank Dermody, D-Allegheny, also appointed Sims as Democratic chairman of the State Government Subcommittee on State-Federal Relations and Democratic secretary of the Commerce Committee.

Brian Sims

"I am excited to get to work on behalf of my constituents and the people of Pennsylvania on the many issues these committees tackle," Sims said. "I am also honored to be chosen to serve as Democratic chairman of a subcommittee as I begin my first term in Harrisburg."

The Commerce Committee evaluates legislation involving the banking industry and financial services industries. The committee has oversight of the Department of Banking, Department of Community and Economic Development, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Securities Commission and the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority to ensure that Pennsylvania stays competitive in a world marketplace. The committee reviews bills that control interest rates, wage and employment issues, and more.

The Professional Licensure Committee reviews bills which pertain to positions requiring licensing for qualified employees and businesses. The scope includes businesses as diverse as funeral homes and cemeteries to auctioneers, pharmacists and beauticians.

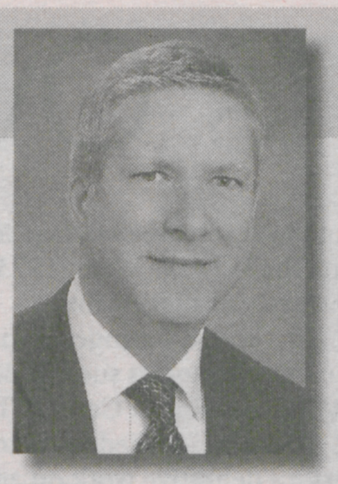
The House State Government Committee reviews legislation on issues ranging from voting and elections to campaign finance reform, the Right-to-Know Law, the Sunshine Act and the Procurement Code. It oversees the departments of State and General Services, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, as well as the Governor's Office, State Athletic Commission, Independent Regulatory Review Commission, Joint Committee on Documents, the Public Employee Retirement Commission, State Employees' Retirement Commission and the Pennsylvania Public Television Network.

Sims represents the 182nd Legislative District, which includes Rittenhouse, Fitler and Logan Squares, the Gayborhood, and parts of Washington Square West, Bella Vista, Graduate Hospital and Grays Ferry.

Chamber on the move

By Bill Krenz

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Why Should I Join the Chamber?

By now, some of you have heard that there is gay and lesbian chamber in the area. So what! Why should I even care? I have an okay job, I go every day and I get my paycheck.

Yes, I am (pick one: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or however you identify yourself) member of the region's lgbt community, and Idon't really care about this chamber thing.

But you really should.

A chamber is a non-profit organization made up of businesses and professionals that function as a coalition to support the lgbt community and its allies. This functional body advocates and promotes the gay business and professional community and is a voice for business.

Whether you are working for a business or corporation, or own a business outright, consider the benefits of this chamber. Also remember that latent bigotry still exists in the business community today with regard to our community.

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is here to help educate and minimize this discrimination and work to promote our community in a professional and business manner.

Consider attending our business networking mixers. It's a great place for professional small talk. The food and beverages at these events are fantastic.

If your job doesn't quite suit you, why not mingle with other business people and members of some of the largest corporations in the Lancaster, York, and Harrisburg areas and see if you can make contacts for your next great job, or work for a company that is lgbt friendly?

Check out the member perks and discounts that are constantly updated on the web site at www.cpglcc.org. The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce also extends its discounts to local chamber affiliate members.

If you own a business in the area, think about the opportunities you get for networking as you talk to others. You are expanding your company's visibility to others, as well as improving your business image. Also remember that you can be certified as an LGBT owned business, through the LGBTBE (Business Enterprise) certification. The certification is free if you are a chamber member, and can open additional doors for your business's expansion.

Our local chamber also gives businesses guidance and consulting services, and provides information for services in the region for start-ups. If the chamber board can't answer your questions, they know where to turn for answers.

There is a wealth of lgbt goods and services in our area.

Come to a social event. If you are employed, a student, looking for work, or a business owner, considering attending a network event. You'll be surprised. Chamber membership has doubled in size in two years. Be part of a growing organization, have fun, and learn how to expand your business opportunities.

Past Events:

The January mixer was held on January 15 at the Charter Homes and Neighborhoods model home located in The Village of Walden & Walden Crossroads on Sutherland Way in Mechanicsburg. This new community has already had members of the lgbt community settle here. The food was catered by Sophia's on Market. Tours were provide to two models, as well as a business within the community.

The CPGLCC presented a workshop entitled "It's All About Connections" at the Gay Straight Alliance Leadership Summit held at Dickinson College in February.

The Chamber Annual Meeting was held March 2. More news to come on the results of this important event.

Upcoming Events:

Please check the chamber's website for the latest scheduling with the March and April Mixer events.

April 10 is the mixer date for the ever popular Lancaster Arts Hotel, in Lancaster.

The chamber will be supporting the TransCentral Keystone Conference, and members will be attending the dinner gala on March 16.

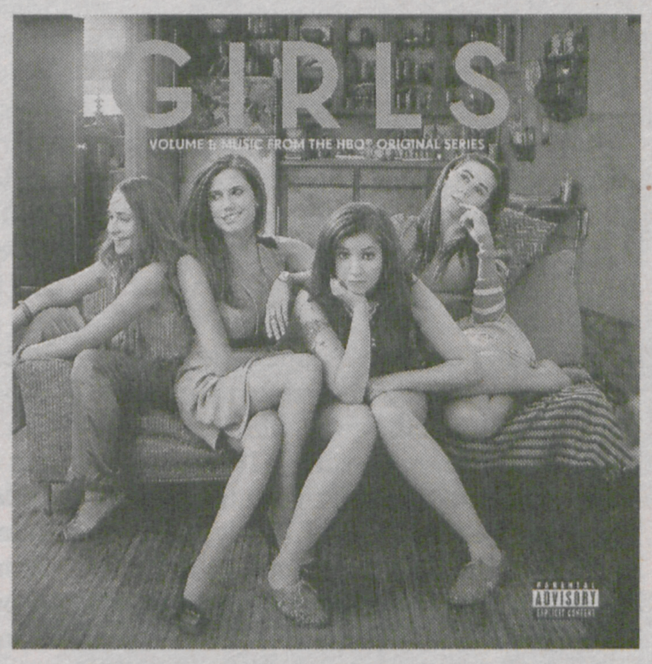
The Black and White Party is May 4 at the Zembo in Harrisburg.

Check out our web site for the directory of affiliated lgbt owned member business to determine the best places for our community to spend our money.

Web site: www.cpglcc.org

Hear Me Out - Girls Soundtrack, Solange

By Chris Azzopardi



Girls Soundtrack, Volume 1

Robyn's sad-but-liberating "Dancing on My Own" already made life infinitely better, but then HBO's groundbreaking series Girls did something awesome with it during its debut season: They had the show's star, Lena Dunham's every-girl Hannah, shake out her boy blues to the tune. Awesome how? Any Robyn fan can relate to the dorkiness of shadowing the Swede's moves in their bedroom. You have to hand it to the music supervisors of Girls: They have an ear for twenty-something "quarter-life crisis" music as much as they understand that girls, too, just wanna have fun. Icona Pop brings the Cyndi Lauper to the party with the unapologetic anthem "I Love It," as does Santigold's "Girls" theme – an addictive little joint looped with a merry-go-round of voice samples and a hard bass line. In the woe-is-me department: Grouplove's "Everyone's Gonna Get High" fantastically captures growing up directionless through a surging indie-rock sound, and two tracks in particular – Michael Penn's "On Your Way" and Harper Simon's "Wishes and Stars" – are wistful gems. The new song from Tegan and Sara – the girls' surprising take on The Rolling Stones' "Fool to Cry," a bonus track – is a faithful cover that's characteristically harmonious and also resembles them in their pre-pop days. "Sight of the Sun" from fun. might also be the best song not on their auspicious debut. Now please let the music from season two of Girls be this good.

Grade: B+

Solange, True

It must be tough being Beyoncé's sister, knowing that she's the pop icon sitting comfortably on a bed of billions with the type of adoration that the world usually reserves for, like, Mother Teresa. But don't feel bad for Solange, who parted ways with her subsidiary Universal label after the release of 2008's Sol-Angel and the Hadley St. Dreams and goes the indie route for this retro throwback. The album has the melodious ease of Frank Ocean's channel ORANGE with an impressive breadth of influences, from late-'70s soul to disco and NYC house music at the turn of the millennium. With its '80s Janet euphoria, "Losing You" could've been produced by Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis 25 years ago. There's no hard R&B electro thump, Solange doesn't oversing – both her voice and the beat know the strength of subtlety. She's so illusive, in fact, that even the acerbity of an eff bomb on "Some Things Never Seem to Fucking Work" melts into the song's rhythmic pattern. The song, along with "Lovers in the Parking Lot," is another piece of pure ear-bliss for late-night grooving. You know, really the only problem with True is this: It's too short. Baby Knowles' seven-track EP is so seductive in its vintage glory – maybe it's this newfound independence that has her so chill, or the realization that she doesn't have to be Beyoncé for people to like her – that by the time the hypnotic "Bad Girls" rolls in, you'll want the sun to go back down.

Grade: A-

Also Out:

Bruno Mars, Unorthodox Jukebox

By naming his latest Unorthodox Jukebox, Bruno Mars' second album already comes with the expectation that this one won't be anything like that sappy "Just the Way You Are" awfulness. It isn't, but that also doesn't mean Romeo's reinventing the wheel. Even though the follow-up to his debut juggernaut isn't without questionable bits, like the corny "Treasure," this is a pretty great pop album that's rich in hooks and retro vibes. Even the way Mars writes about love isn't so much like reading a note passed on in an elementary school classroom. On "Gorilla," a drum-charged sex song, he unleashes his instrument. And no, not just his voice.

Seth Glier, Things I Should Let You Know

Guys with guitars who sing about their feelings often get categorized as folk. Seth Glier can work the strings and emotes as honestly as any songwriter, but categorizing his music – Grammy-nominated, by the way – would be doing him a disservice. His third release is a musically broad set of songs. The atmospheric title track is the prologue to his 13-song narrative about self-discovery and rediscovery. "Man I Used to Be," a pop ditty circa early '00s, recalls Five for Fighting, while "The Stars and Glitter" sets a 1930s Mississippi scene. His Billy Joel influences are most obvious on "Everything Beautiful," which is just that – beautiful.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com.

The Honeymoon Is Over

By John DiLeo

As we watch same-sex marriage slowly but steadily trailblaze its way across America, the subject of wedded unions remains a hot topic. Whether addressed on historical, cultural, or legal terms, marriage is being passionately defined and redefined by everyone with an opinion. But, no matter the changing times and tastes and values, the thing about marriage is that it is always somehow there. It's never going away, which is why Jeanine Basinger has written I Do and I Don't: A History of Marriage in the Movies. The term "marriage movie" barely exists because, as Basinger points out, it's not a tag that sounds especially enticing to ticket buyers in search of escapism on Saturday night. Don't many of us already live inside a so-called marriage movie? And do audiences crave "entertainment" about the day-to-day lives of long-term couples? Couldn't filmmakers just stop at "and they lived happily ever after"? The truth is that hundreds of movies may technically be classified as "marriage movies" simply because husbands and wives tend to show up in nearly every kind of film.

The Thin Man movies of the 1930s and '40s are murder mysteries, but aren't they really about the perfect partnership enacted by William Powell and Myrna Loy? Giant (1956) is an American epic, but at its core it deals with the evolving union between Rock Hudson and Elizabeth Taylor. And though The Sundowners (1960) is an episodic adventure set in Australia, its greatness lies in its authentic depiction of a happy (and sexy) longtime marriage, beautifully played by Robert Mitchum and Deborah Kerr. Then consider the importance of marriage in some of our most beloved movies: Gone With the Wind, It's a Wonderful Life, The Sound of Music, The Godfather, not to mention the countless romantic comedies through the ages. There have also always been movies, from The Cheat (1915) to This is 40 (2012), that really are flat-out marriage movies—including Dodsworth (1936), Two for the Road (1967), and The War of the Roses (1989)—determined to examine and dissect the institution's ups and downs.

Basinger's exhaustively researched book is a thorough guide, containing just about any marriage-related movie you can think of, while admirably resurrecting many obscure works. But aside from collecting these titles, what is there to be gained? One never doubts Basinger's enthusiasm or commitment, but her revelations about these films can be thuddingly banal: "Only three elements were necessary: the couple, their problems, and their situation." There are no surprising insights about marriage movies, which most often find their way to a positive resolution, aside from the occasional downbeat example such as the alcohol-fueled Days of Wine and Roses (1962). Whatever the arising problems (infidelity, money, in-laws, etc.), most of these movies conclude with reassurances and reaffirmations for the central couple (and the audience). This book serves merely to give a plethora of varying examples of the formula.

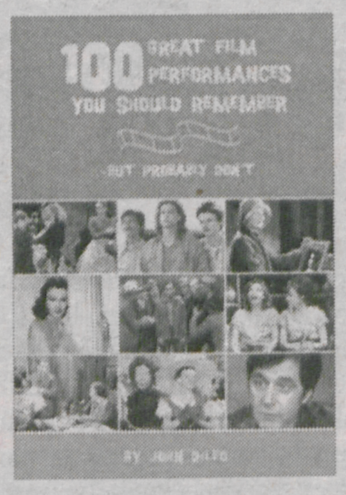
Basinger often ignores chronology, bouncing around the last century's marriage-movie output seemingly at random. But when she arrives at World War II and women's changing roles, and then specifically tackles home-front movies, the book becomes purposeful, interesting, and absorbing, suddenly attaining a propulsive motion that is sustained thereafter by continuing to proceed chronologically. In the 1970s, when the sexual revolution and women's liberation altered the rules of cohabitation, the marriage movie still hung on: The Way We Were (1973) was one of the decade's biggest hits.

Though Basinger is sharp and persuasive on movies such as Bigger than Life (1956) and Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice (1969), she has tried to do too much, to write a definitive work on an unwieldy subject, going so far as to include TV sitcoms, like Donna Reed's and I Love Lucy, plus a long section on Friday Night Lights. She tends to repeat points as if they were difficult to grasp and sometimes strains to sound as if she were saying something profound. I wish she had dealt exclusively with, say, fifty key films, chronologically, which would have provided plenty of material for her mission, enough for readers to experience the scope of changing eras and the evolving variations of the same marriage-movie themes. If Basinger had hoped to blow the lid off the marriage movie, well, you soon realize there's no lid to blow off. Long after marriage equality is the law of the land, we'll still be saying "I do" to marriage movies, experiencing whatever are the latest trends in the ongoing saga of a tried-and-true formula.

John DiLeo is the author of five books about classic movies.

> "I feel the denial of gay marriage sends a prejudice message. Our youth deserve a fair + hopeful future with government that values us equally."
>
> **Lady Gaga**

Movie Books by John DiLeo



"And You Thought You Knew Classic Movies! (1999) is a memory-bending quiz book that tests your knowledge of the glorious films from Hollywood's Golden Age, soon to be released in an e-book edition."

100 Great Film Performances You Should Remember But Probably Don't (2002) takes a look at underrated and overlooked great performances, from 1920 to 2000, from Lillian Gish to Renee Zellweger and all the greats in between."

"Screen Savers: 40 Remarkable Movies Awaiting Rediscovery (2007) puts the spotlight on neglected gems from the silent era to George Clooney's Three Kings, focusing on five great films from each of eight essential movie genres."

"Screen Savers II: My Grab Bag of Classic Movies (2012) is a three-part sequel to DiLeo's 2007 book, featuring his reviews, blog posts, and trivia quizzes, bringing many more great underappreciated movies to classic-film buffs."

"Tennessee Williams and Company: His Essential Screen Actors (2010) pays tribute to 11 actors who appear in more than one Williams movie, forming an unofficial stock company of Tennessee Williams actors, including Vivien Leigh, Marlon Brando, Elizabeth Taylor, and Paul Newman."

www.johndileo.com

Totem Pole Theatre raised more than $250,000 last year in order to survive. The funds will allow the theatre to include popular musicals and larger budget, crowd pleasing shows.

Totem Pole Playhouse Pulls Out Stops

When Totem Pole Playhouse Artistic Director, Ray Ficca, announced in August that if emergency funds were raised, the 62 year old summer theatre would be back in 2013 with a season like no other in Playhouse history, he wasn't kidding.

Now an expanded regular season, an unprecedented four musicals, Tony award winning and nominated shows, a production in downtown Gettysburg, and the biggest cast sizes in over 35 years, are just a few of many 'firsts' in this comeback season for the treasured theatre in Caledonia.

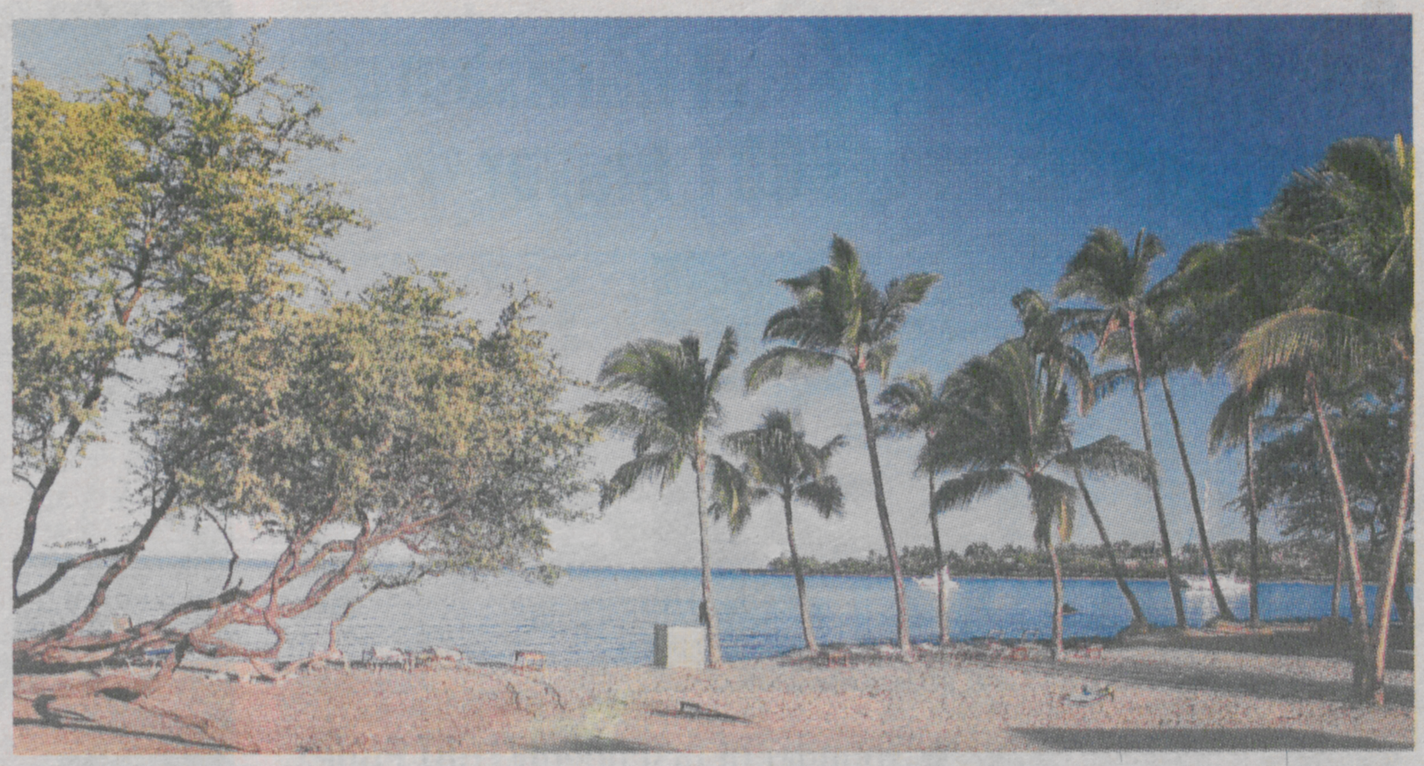
"The 2013 season is by far the most ambitious undertaking in the history of the theater," said executive director Nathan Rotz. "We want folks to leave each show having had their most exciting entertainment experience of the summer. Each show will be one 'wow' after another." And there is certainly enough for the summer theatre lover to get charged up about. Franklin County Visitors' Bureau and Patriot Federal Credit Union serve as the 2013 Season Sponsors.

The new eight show season at Totem Pole Playhouse begins on May 25, 2013 with the Broadway smash Noises Off by Michael Frayn. Hailed by many critics as the "funniest farce ever written," and Tony nominees and winner of the Olivier award for Best Play, Noises Off is the ultimate insider show for theater buffs. A backstage farce about a zany bunch of actors performing a farce, this side-splitting comedy pokes fun at every theater cliché in the book. Love triangles, bumbling actors, an imperious director and lost contact lenses are all part of the high-spirited antics in this fast paced laugh fest.

The area premiere of a musical about the life of one of America's most cherished singers hit the stage in early June. A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline follows the Hall of Fame country legend, who rose from her humble roots near Winchester, Virginia all the way to fame and fortune at the Grand Ole Opry, at Carnegie Hall, and beyond. This show includes over 20 of her memorable hits including 'Crazy,' 'Walkin' After Midnight,' 'Sweet Dreams,' 'She's got You,' and 'I Fall to Pieces' as it follows her climb from obscurity to international stardom.

OUT OF TOWN
by Andrew Collins

Hawaii's Big Island



The view from the Lava Lava Beach Club cottages, on the Big Island's Kohala Coast. *Photo by Andrew Collins*

Roughly twice the size of the rest of Hawaii's islands combined, the Big Island cultivates a loyal following of repeat visitors while delighting first-timers with its eye-popping scenery and welcoming, laid-back personality. Home to two of the world's most active volcanoes, the state's highest mountain (13,800-foot Mauna Kea), a wealth of both ritzy resorts and economical inns and B&Bs (quite a few of them gay-owned), some of Hawaii's most secluded beaches and spectacular waterfalls, and miles of scenic roads, the Big Island - officially called the Island of Hawaii - is truly a land of superlatives.

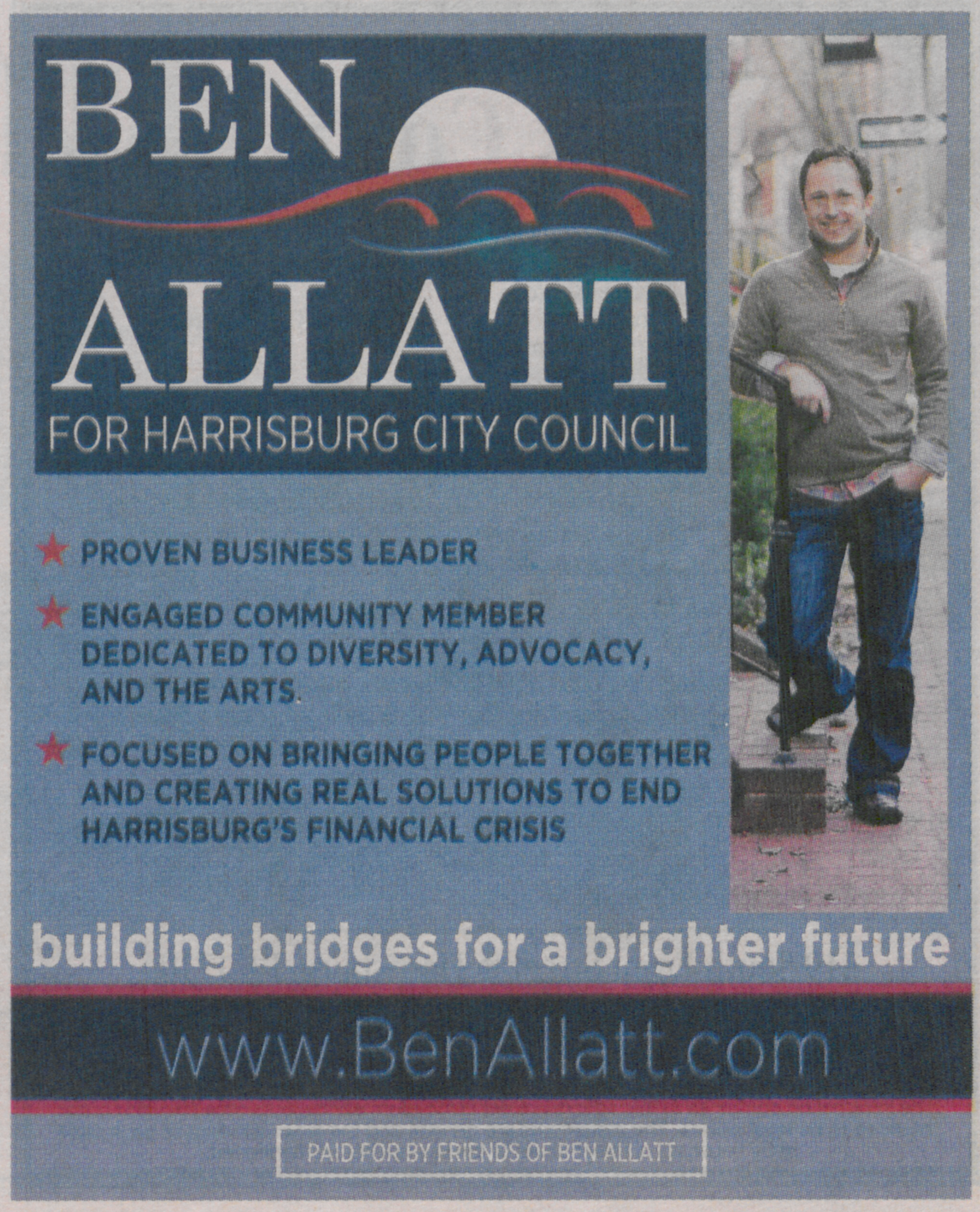
You'll hardly be alone if you spend most of a visit to the Big Island (gohawaii.com/big-island) by anchoring yourself at one of the larger resorts and - it's fairly tempting to while away your days lazing by the pool, swimming in the sea, enjoying a round of golf or some spa treatments, and eating and drinking fabulously, especially when some properties abound with cushy amenities. But do try to visit whichever side of the island you're not staying on, either by car, or by booking a helicopter tour of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park or over the amazing 1,200-foot waterfalls of the remote Waipio Valley. If you're visiting the Big Island for the first time, plan to spend at least four full days here - you could easily stay two weeks without running out of things to see and do.

Most visitors stay on the island's west coast, either around the town of Kona, which is also home to the largest airport, or a little farther north along the Kohala Coast, which is renowned for its swank resorts and arid, beautifully desolate terrain, characterized by massive black fields of lava rock. There's far less tourism development on the verdant but also quite rainy eastern side of the island, but on this side you will find the small, historic city of Hilo, fascinating Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, and the funky Puna Coast - there are quite a few gay-owned B&Bs in these latter two areas.

Other areas that see fewer visitors but offer incredible scenery and all sorts of hidden charms include North Kohala, at the northwest tip of the island, which includes the historic plantation villages of Hawi and Kapaau, and access to

continued on page 19

Steam plumes rise from 270-foot-deep Halemaumau Crater, inside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.



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From left to right: Chris McGann, Millersburg Borough Manager; Tim Reardon, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director; Chris Dietz, Millersburg Borough Council President; Joy Breach, Millersburg Borough Council Member.

Millersburg Gateway Park Wins Award

Last in the news as a candidate for the 104th state House district, openly-gay Chris Dietz, remains Millersburg Borough Council president where is chair of the parks and recreation committee. His efforts with others on the Gateway Park development has garnered the borough an award from Dauphin County.

Plans for the Gateway Project stem from our Master Parks plan which began development in 2006. "We performed a survey that encouraged community feedback on our current parks system and what we could do to improve it," Dietz says. The result was a grand vision with more than twenty phases that spanned from erosion control to swings to restrooms and beyond, Dietz explains.

The project's four largest financial contributors were PA DCNR, Dauphin County's Local Municipal Share Grant Program, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), and the Millersburg Bicentennial Legacy Fund. "Overall, approximately 25 entities came together to make this truly community project a success," Dietz says.

A second round of development includes walking and bike paths connecting Lykens Valley Rail Trail and the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. "We have secured funding to build two additional miles of rail trail on the lands of the Smith Center," Dietz says, hoping to complete the work by the end of the year.

How does being gay figure into Dietz's abilities and leadership style?

"The fact that I am an openly gay political office holder did not have an impact on the development of this project. We have great partners to work. Leadership is a big part of being successful whether you are in politics or in any another community group context," Dietz says.

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New Hate Crimes Act in Effect

The Matthew Shepard James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), passed in 2009, includes provisions for more comprehensive data collection practices by expanding options for categorizing a hate crime. Starting in 2013, "gender," "gender identity," "sexual orientation" and "disability" are four new categories that are included on the Hate Crime Incident Report, a standardized document used by law enforcement to report, track and code bias-related crimes. The new categories permit the incident report to be more comprehensive and inclusive.

Additionally, the Hate Crime Incident Report not only includes all of the above categories of hate crimes, but also contains separate sections under each of the four categories to allow for a more complete understanding of who is under attack. This portion of HCPA provides urgently needed education for police officers about transgender people in a way that did not exist before. Expanding data collection allows law enforcement and advocacy groups to begin to understand who is the most vulnerable even within LGBT and transgender communities.

Ben Allatt Runs for Harrisburg City Council

By Frank Pizzoli

Joining the region's growing number of lgbt candidates and office holders, Ben Allatt is running for Harrisburg City Council in the May Primary Election.

Born in Philadelphia, he is partnered with Stuart Landon, LGBT Community Center president and principal with Open Stage of Harrisburg. Allatt is running because he "cares deeply" about the city. "I could sit back and watch what happens or I could step up and be part of the solution."

Although Allatt has voted with the Democratic Party since 2000, he describes himself as "a moderate overall, not a one issue voter, socially liberal and fiscally conservative.

In choosing to run for public office, Allatt joins openly-gay City Controller Dan Miller, a former city council member himself who is running for mayor in the Primary, and City Treasurer John Campbell.

By running, Allatt also steps into the circle of lgbt candidates in the region who recently ran for the state House but lost to incumbents. Last November Chris Dietz ran in the 104th state House district grabbing 13,264 votes. Dietz says he has not made "any firm decisions at this point" about running again. He remains Millersburg Borough Council president, where his work on recreation development garnered county recognition.

In the 105th state House district race, Kelly McEntee pulled 12,073 votes. She wants people to know that she "plans to be a candidate" again for the seat.

In his thinking about public service, Allatt draws a distinction between equality and equity.

Equality means "you are sitting before a body of those in power advocating for something you believe in," he explains. "Equity implies that you have a seat at the table where decisions are made." Allatt came to the realization that besides believing in equality he feels strongly about equity. "That means I need a seat at the table."

Allatt has been working at the executive level in the business world for more than four years, currently vice president of JFC Medical. "I've been responsible for building, executing, and operating within a budget and have managed teams as large as 50 across two countries," Allatt says. He believes the best type of leader is "a servant leader who is not doing it for the sake of self-promotion but for the good of the community as a whole."

In order to solve the city's festering, and growing, fiscal problems, Allatt wants to see all parties – city, county, state – "have open and collaborative conversation free of political grandstanding." He thinks the biggest mistake over the last few years "was not filing for bankruptcy," although he doesn't think bankruptcy would have been the end result. "I think it would have forced concessions from all parties, easing the burden on the city."

He agrees that a federal investigation of the incinerator finances should occur. "I believe at least some of what occurred throughout the project was illegal."

Looking forward, Allatt focuses on the fact that Harrisburg is a small city with a large portion of its population at or below the poverty level and with more than 60% of city property tax exempt. "These realities make revenues slim and inadequate to handle city needs," Allatt says, calling for a "regional approach." He thinks that "city residents cannot bear the burden of the massive debt alone, nor should they, and we cannot tax our way into prosperity." If elected, he will call on the county and state to providing infrastructure funds "since both benefit from their large presence in the city."

Allatt also calls for an overhauling of the city's budget and an examination of basic city services like public safety, safe water services, and infrastructure.

Many observers have described the long reign – 28 years – of former Mayor Stephen Reed as contributing to the city's fiscal problems. Central Voice asked Allatt if he believed in term limits.

"I do think term limits are important. Having more people involved means more diversity of thought and opinions. Limits make it less likely that we will have career politicians who can become stagnant over time," he concludes.

Ben Allatt

Central Voice Photo

Allatt is a Messiah College graduate, lives in Midtown Harrisburg. He is also volunteer vice president of the Human Resource Professionals of Central PA, acting as a liaison for diversity issues. Allatt is a graduate of Leadership Harrisburg Area's Community Leadership program and is current board president of Open Stage of Harrisburg.

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Wedding Announcement: Brent Weaver and Jeffrey Clouser Marry

Mr. Brent Weaver and Mr. Jeffrey Clouser were married on Monday, June 25, 2012 in Darien, CT at The Waters Edge at Giovanni's. Justice of the Peace Mary Pugh officiated. The special celebration was attended by Brent's immediate family. Mr. Clouser graduated from Boyertown Area Senior High School in 1987 and from Millersville University in 1991. He is the son of George and Nancy Clouser and is employed as a customer service specialist by JBT in Palmyra, PA. Mr. Weaver is the son of Jean Weaver and the late Harry Weaver, Lancaster, PA. He graduated from Conestoga Valley High School in 1989 and from the University of Delaware in 1994. He is employed as a world language teacher by Manheim Township School District, Neffsville, PA.

National Stonewall Democrats Go Dark

National Stonewall Democrats executive director Jerame Davis confirmed earlier this year the organization will cease operations through at least the end of 2013 after failing to fill a $30,000 budget gap. Last-minute fundraising appeal raised only about $10,000.

Hopefully NSD will regroup and return to continue their valuable work at the national level, Capital Region Stonewall Democrats chair Steve Dorko told Central Voice.

Davis said, "When we were talking with various interested parties, whether they were from the Democratic National Committee or the labor movement or just LGBT Democrats in general, while finding the money that we needed in the short amount of time like that wasn't possible, what we did find was there was an interest in keeping the org around. A lot of people really believe there's a need and a place for Stonewall, it's just that circumstances over the past several years have led to funding crisis that we found ourselves in."

NSD financial problems had previously threatened to shutter the organization. The Washington Blade reported in Feb. 2011 an anonymous donor gave $100,000 to the organization amid reports then-executive director Michael Mitchell did not effectively manage the group's budget. Davis said there was "1,800 in the bank and a boat load of debt" when he took over in November 2011.

"Most people agree that a big part of our problem was that we had strayed from our original mission," he said. "We had a muddy, undefined reason for existence and you combine that with the other missteps that we've made operationally, turnover in staff, especially at the top and so forth and it just kind of all compounded."

Melissa Sklarz, who co-chaired National Stonewall Democrats Board of Directors from 2009 through early 2011, sais,"The Democratic Party and the LGBT political landscape have changed dramatically in the past 15 years since National Stonewall was founded. The Democrats needed to understand the LGBT community and the community needed to understand that the Democrats were the true party of progress. NSD was the right idea at the right time."

Dorko said,"Davis indicated they strayed from their original mission and had difficulty with managing their budget deficits through membership dollars. Surely the NSD was also subject to stiff competition for donor dollars from other national groups that support LGBT candidates and initiatives."

Locally, Dorko said, "the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats have a strong core of active members who faithfully pay their dues. Our reach extends beyond our

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Out of Town continued from page 15

the magnificent black-sand beach at Pololu Valley, which is situated at the very end of Hwy. 270 and then reached by a somewhat steep trail (it's about a 30-minute hike).

In the upcountry not far from the Kohala Coast, Waimea is a vintage ranching town known for its Hawaiian paniolo (cowboy) culture - you pass through it if you drive to the east side of the island via the northern loop (Hwy. 19), in which case you'll also have the chance to see the beautiful Hamakua Coast as you make your way down to Hilo. Waimea has several notable restaurants, from fancy Merriman's to affordable and fun Big Island Brewhaus & Tako Taco Taqueria, which serves some of the finest artisan beers in the state. From near Waimea, you could also drive an alternate route to Hilo, via the narrow (but much-improved over the years) Saddle Road across the island's midsection, perhaps visiting the Onizuka Center of International Astronomy on the upper slopes of Mauna Kea.

Other communities in the cooler upcountry elevations of the western side of the island include the prime coffee-growing and agricultural communities of Holualoa and Kealakekua, charming little towns with a number of distinctive restaurants and shops. Continue south through along Highway 11 if order to take the southern loop around the Hilo - the road twists and turns along some dramatic stretches of the Kona Coast, eventually passing through Naalehu - the southernmost town in the United States. It then climbs northeast along the lower slopes of Mauna Loa and into the town of Volcano, which is the base camp for 520-square-mile Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

This park devoted to a pair of extremely active volcanoes is one of the best places on earth to view and learn about geothermal energy and volcanology. Trails lead from the visitor center, which overlooks the steam plumes rising out of massive Halemaumau Crater (which erupted in 2008 and has been belching toxic gas ever since). You can drive along part of the rim of Kilauea Volcano caldera, which has been sending rivers of molten lava down to the ocean, off and on since it entered into a period of hyper activity in 1983. You can drive the park's scenic, 23-mile Chain of Craters Road, accessing many other trails along the way, including a short and memorable jaunt through a lava tube and others along hardened lava flows. For another opportunity to come fairly close to where lava has quite recently flowed directly into the ocean, drive along to the end of Hwy. 130 on the Puna Coast to Kalapana, where in the 1980s and '90s, huge swaths of lava destroyed more than 100 homes.

The big resorts along the Kohala Coast include everything from ultra-posh hideaways to moderately upscale chain hotels. Among the former, the Four Seasons Hualalai (fourseasons.com) is a supremely swank property, consisting of spacious rooms set within secluded three- and four-unit bungalows facing either the ocean or golf courses. Private entrances, spacious lanais, a magnificent health club and spa, and parklike grounds set this compound apart from the competition. The Fairmont Orchid (fairmont.com) is another of the area's notable luxury resorts, while the Waikoloa Beach Marriott (marriott.com) is a more affordable through still exceptionally comfy - and very gay-friendly - hotel with a great beachfront setting.

Down a side road near the Marriott, you'll also find one of the sweetest little lodging gems in all of Hawaii, the gay-owned Lava Lava Beach Club (lavalavabeachclub.com), which comprises just four immaculate and smartly furnished bungalows on the beach at Anaehoomalu Bay, each with private outdoor lava-rock showers, a large lanai, and a well-equipped kitchen. This mini-resort, which opened in spring 2012, is also home to an excellent and very LGBT-popular beachfront restaurant - it's owned by partners Eric von Platen and Scott Dodd, who also operate the exceptional Kona restaurant, Huggo's.

Up on the North Coast, just a five-minute drive from Hawi, the charmingly secluded Hawaii Island Retreat (hawaiiislandretreat.com) is another of the Big Island's newer and still relatively lesser known jewels. Built in 2009 by spa therapist and healer Jeanne Sunderland and her husband Robert Watkins, this tranquil "eco-boutique hotel" set dramatically atop a seaside cliff comprises nine simply but elegantly furnished rooms, all with whirlpool paths, plus several economical yurts, as well as a spa, yoga studio, fitness room, and infinity pool. The property has developed a strong following among spiritually minded visitors who appreciate the magical setting, kind staff, healing spa treatments, and peaceful vibe.

Down near Hilo, the lush Puna Coast is home to a favorite of LGBT visitors, Kalani (kalani.com), a long-established retreat center with eco-cottages, a clothing-optional pool, an open-air restaurant with meals enjoyed family-style, hot tubs, a sauna, gathering spaces in which workshops and classes (from yoga to martial arts) are offered, and massage rooms where you can book a wide range of spa services. Although this nonprofit resort is popular with groups on retreat, it also draws plenty of solo travelers, couples, and small groups of friend seeking rejuvenation, wellness, and relaxation. Smaller gay-owned B&Bs abound in this area anchored by the quirky town of Pahoa - a few favorites include Absolute Paradise B&B (absoluteparadise.tv), the Ohia House B&B (ohiahousebb.com), and Coconut Cottage B&B (coconutcottagehawaii.com).

Just outside Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, gay-owned Hale Ohia Cottages (haleohia.com) is an airy, warmly decorated seven-room complex nestled amid pine trees and ferns. The elegant cottages and suites sleep from two to five persons, and some have kitchen facilities. In the same village, other gay-popular inns with excellent reputations include Volcano Village Lodge (emmaspencerliving.com/volcano-village-lodge) and Volcano Rainforest Retreat (volcanoretreat.com).

Finally, along the Kona Coast you'll find several other terrific lodgings. An upscale guest house that offers elegant decor along with intimacy and seclusion, Horizon Guest House (horizonguesthouse.com) has four units that afford unparalleled ocean views, as does the in-ground infinity pool and sweeping grounds on this 40-acre mountainside high above the Pacific. And on a 30-acre coffee plantation in an artsy upcountry enclave above Kona, the Holualoa Inn (holualoainn.com) is an absolute stunner, with handsomely appointed rooms, dramatic sea views, and lushly landscaped gardens. On the Big Island, there's a lodging that fits just about every style and budget, a reflection of this wonderfully diverse, enchanting getaway.

Andrew Collins is the editor in chief of the GLBT travel magazines OutAloha and OutCity, and he covers gay travel for the website GayTravel.About.com.

Sexual Violence by Orientation Data Released

The first set of national prevalence data on intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual violence (SV), and stalking victimization by sexual orientation was released recently by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The study found that lesbians and gay men reported IPV and SV over their lifetimes at levels equal to or higher than those of heterosexuals; with sexual orientation based on respondents' identification at the time of the survey. The survey also found that bisexual women (61.1 percent) report a higher prevalence of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner compared to both lesbian (43.8 percent) and heterosexual women (35 percent). Of the bisexual women who experienced IPV, approximately 90 percent reported having only male perpetrators, while two -thirds of lesbians reported having only female perpetrators of IPV.

The data presented in this report do not indicate whether violence occurs more often in same-sex or opposite sex couples. Rather, the data show the prevalence of lifetime victimization of intimate partner violence, sexual violence and stalking of respondents who self-identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual at the time of the survey and describe violence experienced with both same-sex and opposite-sex partners.

"We know that violence affects everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. This report suggests that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in this country suffer a heavy toll of sexual violence and stalking committed by an intimate partner," said CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden. "While intervening and providing services are important, prevention is equally critical."

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is designed to better describe and understand the level of IPV, SV, and stalking victimization in the United States. Using 2010 data from NISVS, this report is the first to provide national data that examines IPV, SV and stalking by sexual orientation. Further research is needed in order to fully understand the experience of interpersonal violence that impact LGB individuals and their communities. This information is critical to informing prevention programs and policies aimed at reducing these types of victimization.

Other key findings include:

- The majority of women who reported experiencing sexual violence, regardless of their sexual orientation, reported that they were victimized by male perpetrators

- Nearly half of female bisexual victims (48.2 percent) and more than one-quarter of female heterosexual victims (28.3 percent) experienced their first rape between the ages of 11 and 17 years.

CDC will work to create resources to bring attention to these issues within lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.

book review

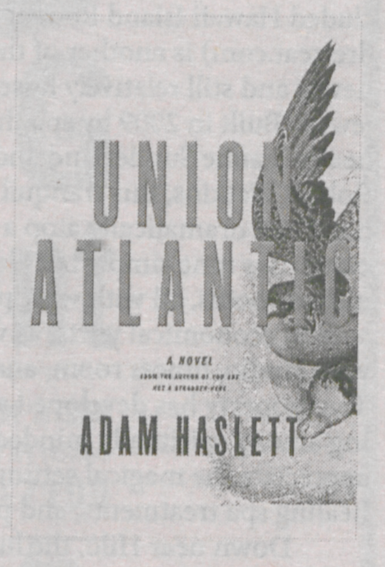
By Deborah Battisti & Lori Lane
Dauphin County Library System
www.dcls.org

THE LIBRARY | DAUPHIN COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
OPEN FOR DISCOVERY

Comedy, Drama, History

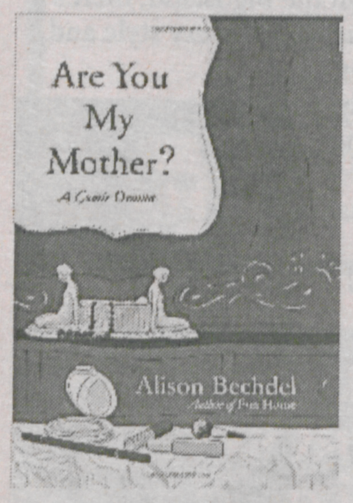
The column, now penned by Deborah Battisti and Lori Lane, of the Dauphin County Library System, will review new and old titles in book, audiobook, and downloadable formats. Librarian Lew Maurer originated the column.

Union Atlantic by Adam Haslett



At the heart of Union Atlantic lies a test of wills between a young banker, Doug Fanning, and a retired schoolteacher, Charlotte Graves, whose two dogs have begun to speak to her. When Doug builds an ostentatious mansion on land that Charlotte's grandfather donated to the town of Finden, Massachusetts, she determines to oust him in court. As a senior manager of Union Atlantic bank, a major financial conglomerate, Doug is embroiled in the company's struggle to remain afloat. Drawn into Doug and Charlotte's intensifying conflict is Nate Fuller, a troubled high-school senior who unwittingly stirs powerful emotions in each of them. (Goodreads, 1/30/13)

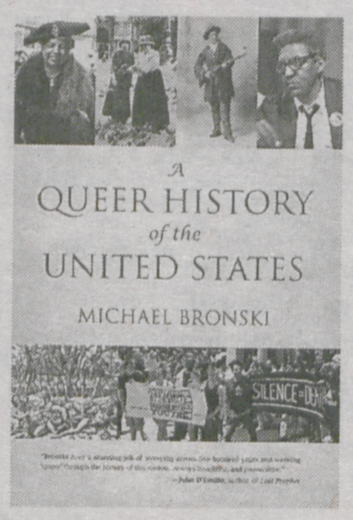
Doug's relationship with Nate is a study in moral ambiguity. Some may argue both characters have chosen freely, if not wisely. Others may disagree, based on the difference in ages and experience. Read this entertaining and thought-provoking book and see what you think.



Are You My Mother: A Comic Drama by Alison Bechdel

If you haven't had the pleasure of reading Bechdel's first graphic memoir, Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic, you might want to start with that funny, sad and fascinating look at the artist's childhood and her volatile, closeted father. Then, enjoy Are You My Mother? her search to understand her mother and their relationship. A passionate amateur actor and brutally honest mother, Helen Bechdel is a complex and frustrating presence in Alison's life. The author's efforts to understand her mother and their imperfect and often fraught relationship take her through years of psychotherapy and self-absorption to awareness and appreciation. Getting there is a painful, funny and visually delightful trip for the reader.

A Queer History of the United States by Michael Bronski



Winner of a 2012 Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Stonewall Book Award sponsored by the American Library Association. Scholar and expert Michael Bronski has been involved with LGBT politics since 1969 as an activist, organizer, writer, publisher, editor, and independent scholar. In A Queer History of the United States, the first book in Beacon Press' series of ReVisioning American History series, Bronski reaches back to 1492 to trace five centuries of LGBT contributions to American History and challenges us to examine our understanding of them. Both the novice historian and the seasoned professional may find items of interest here to spark a curiosity for further study.

Do you have a book, movie, or CD suggestion for The Library? Please email dbattisti@dcls.org to voice your opinion.

Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus March 10 "Easter Bunny Funnies"

Join Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus March 10, 4 and 7 p.m. at Harrisburg Maennerchor Club, 221 North St., Harrisburg, and get your hippity hop going just in time for Spring and the Easter Bunny's arrival. The show is a cabaret-style setting. Guest conductor is Jessica Nupponen.

To make it an even more full-on excursion, have dinner before or after the show at Isaac's, 421 Friendship Road, Harrisburg, behind Bass Pro Shop) from 5-9 p.m. and 25% of the check goes to the Chorus. Print out flyer at www.harrisburgmenschorus.org. $10 general admission; 717-236-3809.

Gay Boy Scout Granted Hearing

"We should all be skeptical when we are told - by the BSA or anyone else - that the sexual orientation of a young Eagle Scout is more important than the content of his character," Scouts for Equality activist Zach Wahls tells Central Voice. Wahls is the son of two lesbian mothers.

At press time, the Boy Scouts of America had put off until May a much anticipated decision to allow local scout operations to decide for themselves on admitting gay scouts and leaders.

Meanwhile, even without a decision by the national organization there was a campaign underway supporting Ryan Andresen, the Boy Scout who was denied his Eagle award because he's gay. Local Boy Scout leaders granted Ryan an official Eagle Board of Review and submitted their recommendation of approval to the Mt. Diablo-Silverado Council on Dec. 31. Ryan's application for Eagle Scout, the BSA's highest rank, is now on its way to BSA national for final approval.

"It's disappointing that the BSA would hide under the pretense of 'freedom' given their well-known ban on young scouts freely living out their lives in an honest way that harms no one"
Zach Wahls

Locally, The United Way of the Capital Region last august decided the organization would no longer fund the New Birth of Freedom Council, which oversees Boy Scouts in the Harrisburg region. The UWCR decision was that organization's reaction to the July 2012 policy confirmation by the national Boy Scouts of their continuing to deny membership to "open or avowed homosexuals."

UWCR had most recently awarded New Birth $90,000. UWCR's future funding denial reflects that organization's policy of not partnering with organizations that exclude people based on sexual orientation. In 2012, New Birth received $166,000 from The United Way of York County. That group has said it will review the Boy Scout policy to assess whether or not there is a conflict. Individual UW chapters develop their own policies as determined by community volunteers.

Carlisle and Cumberland County United Ways continue funding New Birth of Freedom. The Lancaster County United Way also continues to fund the Boy Scouts.

Central Voice talked with Scouts for Equality activist Zach Wahls on the issue. He's been mounting a national effort to bring attention to the situation.

"It's disappointing that the BSA would hide under the pretense of 'freedom' given their well-known ban on young scouts freely living out their lives in an honest way that harms no one," Wahls says.

"As we all know, with freedom comes responsibility, and by maintaining a ban that the American Medical Association has called potentially psychologically traumatizing, the BSA is failing a basic test of stewardship and loyalty to the young men it ostensibly serves," he explains.

Regarding the region, Wahls tells Central Voice: "Though the loss of funding is disappointing, by insisting that the New Birth of Freedom Council end its ban on young scouts who happen to be gay, the United Way is, in some ways, holding the Council to a higher standard of Scouting than the Council has set for itself."

Scouts for Equality urges all United Way chapters to take a closer look at the effect the ban on young Scouts has on the members of our communities. "Though nobody is questioning the BSA's legal right to set membership policy, we should all be skeptical when we are told--by the BSA or anyone else--that the sexual orientation of a young Eagle Scout is more important than the content of his character."

Democrats continued from page 18

dues-paying members since we provide information to hundreds of friends and supporters that benefit from our work in identifying, endorsing and supporting pro LGBT equality candidates.

Although they do contribute financially, Dorko explains that "they also request voter guide information from us and contribute to us accomplishing our mission by actively using and sharing the candidate information needed to cast pro LGBT equality votes. Likewise, the NSD had friends and supporters who benefited from the organization without supporting it with dues dollars."

Davis defined the NSD situation as a "hiatus" with the prediction that they would return in 2014. "Although the political landscape has changed since 1998 when NSD was founded and progressive momentum is moving in our favor," Dorko says "there still remains much work to be done. Hopefully NSD will regroup and return to continue their valuable work at the national level."

Creep of the Week: The Boy Scouts of America

By D'Anne Witkowski

Look, I'm no Boy Scout and I never have been. Like, literally. I'm not a boy, for one. I'm also an "avowed homosexual," which means the Boy Scouts don't like me as a matter of official policy.

Now, this has not had a huge impact on me personally. As I said, I'm not a boy and never have been. My younger brother was in Boy Scouts (Cub Scouts, actually. I don't know if he made it to Boy Scouts or not. Sorry, bro), but he's not gay so that wasn't an issue that ever came up.

But now I have a son of my own and I worry that one day he'll want to be in the Boy Scouts and I'll have to find a very tactful way of saying, "Hell no, Buddy. Boy Scouts hate your moms."

Granted, I could vow to change the organization from the inside, Log Cabin Republican style. In fact, I had a conversation with a woman who, when I voiced my fear that my son would one day want to be a Boy Scout, advocated this very thing. She said that's what she would do in my situation because she was kind of a rebel. She is also Jewish and, though I didn't say this at the time, I doubt that she would be signing her kids up for a group that included blatant anti-Semitism in their official polices. I mean, there has to be a point where you say, "You know what? No. I will not be supporting a group that denigrates my family and practices shameless discrimination. Fuck them to the max."

According to SFGate.com, the "Boy Scouts of America's ban on membership for gays [was] officially recognized in 1991, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2002 and strongly reiterated by the organization in a July ruling." In other words, this is a firmly entrenched policy that isn't going to just magically go away.

While my potential conflict is hypothetical at this point, this anti-gay policy does detrimentally impact actual kids for whom being in this organization means an awful lot. Kids who do all of the work and have been "trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent" in accordance with the Scout Law, and yet have it all come crashing down at the end of their Scouting career just because they're gay.

That's what happened to Ryan Andresen, an 18-year-old in California who was supposed to receive the organization's prized Eagle Scout award, but didn't. Because Andresen is gay. Not because he didn't fulfill the requirements. Not because he wasn't "helpful" or "friendly" or "brave" enough. But because he likes guys.

According to the Huffington post, Andresen's own local scoutmaster, someone who apparently knew he was gay, was the first to block the Scout Master status. An appeal board looked at Andresen's case and unanimously agreed that the kid should get the award.

"The Board reviewed all of Ryan's scouting history, his advancement records, his Eagle project and his spiritual beliefs, and we are convinced that Ryan has more than demonstrated that he deserves the award," district advancement chairwoman Bonnie Hazarabedian said in a statement.

But when that appeal was submitted, Boy Scouts of America said, "Take a hike, homo."

Andresen is not the first kid the Scouts have hurt, and he won't be the last. While the Boy Scouts claim their mission is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes, what we're really talking about is an organization that discriminates against gay kids. Let's not forget that.

LGBT Caucus continued from page 1

For example, Frankel is planning to re-introduce House Bill 300, which would ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. Similar legislation will also be reintroduced in the Senate.

State Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, who represents Harrisburg City and portions of the region's large LGBT population, laments the fact "this community is so talented and resourceful yet has to spend so much energy on fighting for their basic civil rights. Imagine if they turned that creativity toward education, economic development," she said.

State Rep. Mark Rozzi, D, Berks County, had the touching effect of speaking from his heart on the issue of civil rights, illustrating Kim's poignant image of lost talent. "My best friend in high school," Rozzi said, "didn't have the will to remain in a state with no protections. He got married, adopted kids, and opened a successful business in Massachusetts. We've got to do better here in Pennsylvania, now."

Related to doing better here in Pennsylvania, State Rep. Mike Schlossberg, D, Lehigh, said, "Love is love. Green is green," in pointing out that since New York State has passed a same-sex marriage law, that state's economy has seen an additional $260 million in revenue.

Critics of LGBT civil rights often portray efforts by the LGBT community to secure those rights through an open, democratic process as an infringement on religious their freedom, although no law or regulatory change ever proposed in Pennsylvania has required religious organizations, including churches, to do or not do anything as it relates to LGBT civil rights. Laws proposing, for example, civil unions or marriages, do not require churches, for example, to perform or recognize such arrangements. Passage of such laws simply underscores that no particular religion will be allowed the privilege of declaring that their values will become the law of the land.

State Rep. Mark Painter, D, Montgomery, spoke about a live-and-let-live approach when it comes to religious values. "I grew up in a church. My wife is a pastor. Discrimination, hate, and bullying are not Christian values. If I were gay, I'd expect my elected leaders to stand up for me," he said.

Results of The Equality Pennsylvania public opinion poll in many ways reflect what members of the newly-formed LGBT Caucus have been saying publicly about changing attitudes among the electorate.

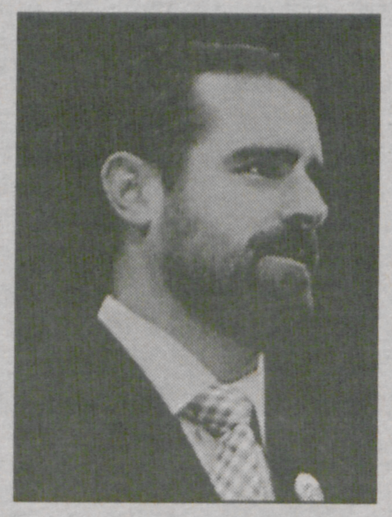
Equality Pennsylvania executive director Ted Martin pointed to the new poll numbers as a good sign. "Any member of the General Assembly who is reluctant to vote in support of LGBT civil rights should look at the more than doubling in size of the LGBT Equality Caucus from last session coupled with our overwhelmingly positive poll numbers for reassurance that their colleagues are there and the public is with them. Pennsylvania is the worst state in the northeast when it comes to how we treat our LGBT citizens, and now is clearly the time to trade in that sad title."

Members of the caucus are:

In the House, Reps. Frankel (co-chair), B. Boyle, K. Boyle, Bradford, Briggs, V. Brown, Brownlee, Clay, Cohen, D. Costa, P. Costa, Cruz, M. Daley, Davis, Dean, DeLissio, Dermody, Evans, Fabrizio, Fleck, Gainey, Harkins, J. Harris, B. Keller, Kim, Kinsey, Kirkland, McCarter, McGeehan, McNeill, Molchany, Mundy, Murt, O'Brien, Painter, Parker, Roebuck, Ross, Rozzi, Santarsiero, Schlossberg, Sims, Sturla, Wheatley and Youngblood.

In the Senate, Sens. Leach (co-chair), Blake, Farnese, Ferlo, Hughes, Schwank, Smith, Stack, Tartaglione, Teplitz, Washington, Wiley and Williams.

State Rep. Dan Frankel, D, Allegheny, co-chair, LGBT Caucus



State Rep. Brian Sims, D-Phila.

State Rep. Patty Kim, D, Dauphin County

Central Voice Photos

See Equality PA poll results on page 27

Honey Boo Boo continued from page 3

"Here Comes Honey Boo Boo," Authentic Entertainment. A production company spokesperson said that the contract with Discovery Channel and TLC required that all questions related to the show had to be handled by the Discovery/TLC publicity department.

"We have no comment," wrote Laurie Goldberg for the Discovery Channel in response to my questions. They have also thus far refused to make Mr. Thompson available for an interview or to ask him to respond to my questions.

Here are the questions that Mr. Thompson, if he is serious about helping combat the HIV epidemic, needs to answer for the general public.

1. What date did Mr. Thompson test positive?

2. What method of HIV testing was performed for that initial positive test?

3. Was a confirmatory test conducted, and if so on what date was that test done and on what date did Mr. Thompson receive the confirmation?

4. What state and county was Mr. Thompson living in at the time of his HIV positive test?

5. What state/county health department met with Mr.Thompson for partner notification services? What was the date of this meeting?

6. What is the name of the ex-bf Mr. Thompson alleges infected him with HIV?

7. With what law enforcement agency did Mr. Thompson file his criminal complaint?

8. On what date was a warrant issued, and by what county, for his ex-boyfriend on the criminal transmission charge?

9. Were there any other charges the ex-boyfriend was facing?

10. On what dates and times was the ex-boyfriend in court? Which court?

11. How was the case resolved - ie did the ex-boyfriend plea, or was there a jury trial or a bench trial? What date did the resolution occur and with what judge?

12. Did Mr. Thompson provide a victim impact statement to the court at the sentencing hearing? If so, please provide the statement and the date on which it was delivered and the name of the judge and the county in which it occurred. If not, why did Mr. Thompson not provide a victim impact statement?

13. Was the ex-boyfriend ordered to pay any fines or restitution? If so, what were these costs?

14. Mr. Thompson says that he tested positive in May 2012. In July 2012 he announced he was engaged to Joshua Yarboroughe. When did Mr. Yarboroughe and Mr. Thompson meet? When did Mr. Thompson disclose his HIV positive status to Mr. Yarboroughe?

15. On what date did Mr. Thompson end his relationship with the ex-boyfriend he prosecuted for allegedly infecting him with HIV?

16. On what date did Mr. Thompson begin his relationship with the ex-boyfriend he prosecuted for allegedly infecting him with HIV?

17. At what point in the relationship between Mr. Thompson and the accused did the two have a conversation about HIV, HIV status, HIV testing and using condoms in the relationship?

18. Did Mr. Thompson and the accused at anytime use meth or any other drug, including alcohol, before or during sexual activity? Was this before or after the discussion about HIV status, testing and condom use?

19. Mr. Thompson says that he tested negative on March 16, 2012, then tested again in May. The Centers for Disease Control recommends annual testing. HIV testing detects the antibodies somewhere between 3-6 weeks after infection. Most clinicians recommend an HIV test follow up for those who have a known exposure or risk three months after the initial test. Why did Mr. Thompson go in for testing 6 to 8 weeks after his initial HIV negative test?

I want to be very clear here, Mr. Thompson could well be telling the absolute truth here: He may well have been infected by a partner who did not disclose his status and that the partner was charged and convicted of that crime. But the lack of any law enforcement agencies, including district attorneys, being able to identify his case, as well as the legitimate questions related to the time frame should have been enough for every news outlet that reported on the Fenuxe report (including the Fenuxe) to ask more detailed, and specific questions before pulling the trigger to publish the interview.

I should note that I have reached out to both Tyler Calkins, editor and publisher of the Fenuxe, and Dino Thompson-Sarmiento, the senior writer for the magazine who wrote the interview up. Mr. Thompson-Sarmiento emailed me back on my initial inquiries on how to reach Mr. Thompson (Uncle Poodle) by informing me he had forwarded my information to Thompson's "management team." After I had done all the leg work to identify the case, I emailed both magazine staffers to ask them three questions:

1. Was there more to this interview than you published? If so, why is that not indicated anywhere in the publication?

2. Did you ask Mr. Thompson for specific details related to his prosecution of his ex-boyfriend? If yes, what specific questions did you ask? If no, why didn't you ask specific questions?

3. What actions did you take as a reporter to verify the criminal charges and conviction, which are a matter of public record?

Neither Calkins nor Thompson-Sarmiento responded to the inquiry.

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arts & entertainment

OPEN STAGE OF HARRISBURG

In the Next Room or the vibrator play
By Sara Ruhl
Apr 12 – May 4

She longed to connect with her husband…In a prim Victorian home at the dawn of the age of electricity, a gentleman doctor is obsessed with the marvels of technology and what they can do for his patients. The doctor is not sure exactly how his invention helps the women he treats for "hysteria," but they do keep coming back. His wife Catherine is only a bystander in her husband's world, listening at the door from the next room as he treats his female patients. A touching comedy about marriage, intimacy and electricity. Est. Running Time: 2 hours 30 min. One intermission. Recommended for mature audiences.
Tickets: 717-232-Open (6736)

Sharadin Bigler Theatre
Ephrata Performing Arts Center

Angels in America Part 1: "Millennium Approaches"
March 7-9 & 13-16
Angels in America Part 2: "Perestroika"
March 28-30 & April 3-6

Preview performances March 6 and March 27 benefit Alder Health Services.
"An artful blend of historical fact and fictional dramatic elements humanizes our nation's stormy, tragic struggle against homosexual bias and political agendas to identify and begin treating the rising specter of the HIV virus. Mr. Kushner has written the most thrilling American play in years."
—The New York Times

ANGELS IN AMERICA

A freewheeling epic of American life in the 1980s, focusing on love, betrayal, AIDS, the Reagan Revolution, religion, Valium, sexual identity and bigotry. This multi-award-winning modern classic mixes real people from American history with fictional characters (and angels) in a dizzying and often comic fantasia that moves us from New York to Antarctica, Utah, the Kremlin, Heaven and other places, real and imaginary. Angels in America is a not-to-be missed event.
Info: 717-733-7966; sharadinbiglertheater.com

HERSHEY THEATRE

American Idiot
March 15 – 17
Friday: 8:00 PM
Saturday: 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday: 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

Direct from Broadway, the smash-hit musical American Idiot tells the story of three lifelong friends, forced to choose between their dreams and the safety of suburbia. Their quest for true meaning in a post 9/11 world leads them on the most exhilarating theatrical journey of the season.
Featuring the hits "Boulevard of Broken Dreams,""21 Guns,""Wake Me Up When September Ends,""Holiday" and the blockbuster title track, American Idiot features the music of Green Day and the lyrics of its lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong, direction by Tony Award® winner Michael Mayer (Spring Awakening), choreography by Olivier Award winner Steven Hoggett (Black Watch), music supervision, orchestrations and arrangements by Pulitzer Prize winner Tom Kitt (Next to Normal), Tony Award® winning set design by Christine Jones and Tony Award® winning lighting design by Kevin Adams.
Note: Contains adult content and strong language.
Tickets: 717-534-3405, 1-800-745-3000, HersheyTheatre.com.

WHITAKER CENTER

David Sedaris
April 10, 8 p.m.
The Forum

David Sedaris is the author of Barrel Fever and Holidays on Ice, as well as collections of personal essays including, Naked and When You Are Engulfed in Flames, each of which became a bestseller. He was the editor of Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules: An Anthology of Outstanding Stories. Sedaris's pieces appear regularly in The New Yorker and have twice been included in "The Best American Essays." His next book Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls will be published late spring 2013. Sedaris's has been nominated for three Grammy® Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album.
Presented by Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts
Tickets: $35, $40, $45; 717-214-ARTS (2787)

STRAND CAPITOL THEATRE

George Thorogood & The Destroyers
March 20, 7:30 p.m.

Rockin' the blues for more than 30 years, George Thorogood and the Destroyers are well known for their classic hit "Bad to the Bone," as well as iconic rock covers of Hank Williams' "Move It On Over," Bo Diddley's "Who Do You Love?" and John Lee Hooker's "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer."
George Thorogood and the Destroyers are currently touring in support of their newest album, 2120 South Michigan Avenue. The album, named for the address of Chicago's Chess Records, pays tribute not only to a great record label but also pays homage to the tough, larger-than-life men who made the music including Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Buddy Guy and more. Through the entire project, Thorogood and the Destroyers attempted to put their own distinctive spin on the classic Chess Records' material while maintaining fidelity to the originals' attack.
"When you do Chuck Berry and Bo Diddley, when you play Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, there's no experimenting," explains George Thorogood. "That's a religion, and you've gotta do it right."
Tickets: $42, $47, $52, 717-846-1111

Flappers To Forties:
That's Entertainment!

6pm Saturday, May 4, 2013

black white party

$40 in advance
$50 at the door

VIP $100 in advance $125 at the door VIP

GBC

- New for 2013: Fully Catered by Gingerbabies and the Belvedere Inn!
- Silent and Live Auctions, Raffles & more!
- Go to www.TheBlackandWhiteParty.com for info or to purchase your tickets
- Held at the spacious Zembo Shrine Auditorium in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
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Featuring LIVE Music By:

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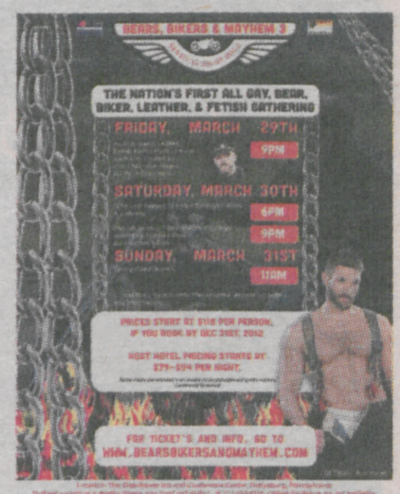
3rd Annual, Bears, Bikers & Mayhem March 28-31

COLT Man Bob Hager, and DJ Ryan Doubleyou



This year's headline entertainer for the Bears, Bikers & Mayhem Event weekend will be Adult Film Actor, COLT Man Bob Hager, COLT Studios, as well as up and coming DJ Ryan Doubleyou, as well as other DJ's, and local entertainment.

The Event Weekend kicks off with a calm before the storm beginning March 28.

An official pre-party will be hosted at the hotel, along with an official ghost tour, to get things moving in the right direction.

Friday, the weekend goes into high gear with the bulk of attendees checking into the host hotel, before a club hosted cocktail party. One of the main events, BLACK MASS, takes place in the hotel ballroom on Friday night, as well as a vendor market with everything from leather, t-shirts, adult goods and more. The evening is never complete until the after party is over featuring late night parties for getting to know the other guests of BBM3.

Saturday, the event features go-karts, mini golf, add on tours like horseback or Segway, pool party, motorcycle run, and much more. Everything on Saturday leads up to an incredible dinner and the second major event, AMISH INVASIOIN- Bears on Rumspringa, hosted by Altland's Ranch Nightclub.

The event weekend wraps up on March 31 with a brunch before sending everyone home exhausted and wishing there was more.

The entire event weekend takes place at the Eisenhower Inn & Conference Center in Gettysburg, PA. Some pool side rooms still available. The weekend passes include lots of extras like snacks, some meals, transportation to off-site events, and admission into the after parties.

Hotel rooms are $74-$95 per night. Multiple add on packages available, as well as transportation from Harrisburg, and Baltimore International Airports for additional fees. All questions can be answered by accessing our website, as well as our ticketing site www.brownpapertickets.com. Vendor space is still available, and is extremely affordable.

Tickets may be purchased at www.bearsbikersandmayhem.com
Late Purchase - After 2/28/13:
$165.00 for Four Day Full Weekend All Access VIP package
$139.00 for Three Day Weekend package

All proceeds benefit Black & White Party, Inc which provides funding for HIV/AIDS service and support in Central Pennsylvania. Bears, Bikers & Mayhem is an event hosted by the Susquehanna Valley Bears, which is an official project of The Black & White Party, Inc., a fully operational 501(c)3 non-profit organization. For more info, please go to www.theblackandwhiteparty.com.

Event supported my many regional organizations like Capital City Bears, The Pennsmen, The Shipmates of Baltimore, The Berks Bears, as well as Altland's Ranch nightclub.

Lancaster events

LANCASTER CITY RESTAURANT WEEK
To showcase the creative talent and diverse dining opportunities in Lancaster City, over 40 restaurants offer special menus and promotions in the theme of "2013" during Lancaster City Restaurant Week! Prices vary by restaurant, (717) 291-4758

DID DINOSAURS POOP?
Until May 12
General admission; 717-291-3941, North Museum of Natural History and Science
400 College Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603
Children become food, fossils, and paleontologists in Did Dinosaurs Poop?, an exciting new exhibition opening February 9, 2013 at the North Museum of Natural History & Science. Designed for families with children ages 4-10, this exhibition presents a fun, colorful approach to learning about fossils and dino diets from long ago. Visitors take a digestion journey, traveling as dinosaur "food" from tooth to tush discovering how poop can become a fossil. They also take on the role of paleontologist to uncover fossils at a "dig site," examine them, and figure out where - and when! - they came from. Through bright graphics, hands-on interactives, touchable fossil casts, and purposeful play, visitors will see how stones, bones, and teeth tell us about dino diet, understand the process of fossilization, begin to reconstruct past ecological webs and become scientists themselves, discovering how to learn from the fossil record.

The Elderly Count

continued from page 1

Carole Losee, 80 and Tracy Boyd, 65 were married in 2011 after 33 years together.

not accurate statistics about LGBT older adults, we do not receive our share of resources or fair and equal treatment in service settings, work settings, or anywhere else for that matter.

In legislation and government policy, we are left out of the conversation. The U.S. Senate is considering "including" LGBT people in the Older Americans Act, the source of most services for older Americans. In Pennsylvania, despite community protest, the state's Department of Aging has adopted a strategic plan for 2012 through 2016 that ignores the specific and unique needs of LGBT older adults. Aging-services providers can ignore the needs of LGBT people by saying that there are no LGBT people in their service area. By not being counted, we allow these excuses.

By not being counted, we enable hate speech and both explicit and subtle forms of discrimination. Would any person in this country suggest that all members of an ethnic or religious minority be separated by gender and confined in barbed-wire pens until they die out as a people? That proposal was made about lgbt Americans this year – by two different religious figures. Because we have not been counted, we allow this behavior to exist.

For many, especially older LGBT people, there is still great fear in being counted. History has taught that it can be risky and dangerous to be out. Abuse by caregivers, service providers, or even family members still exists. Even filling out a supposedly anonymous form can be fear-provoking. Many older LGBT people have experienced the broken promise of confidentiality in earlier times and situations.

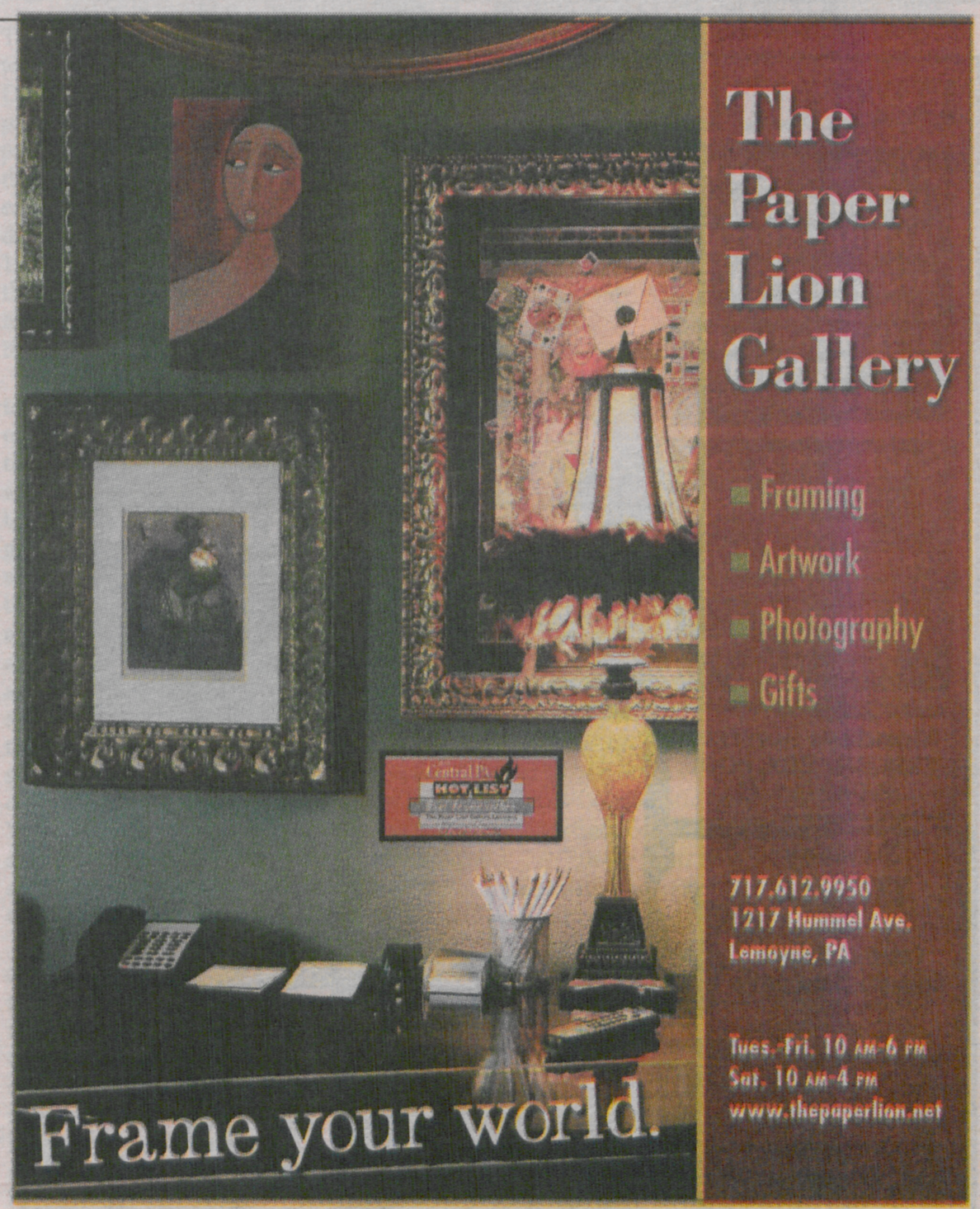
Now, as a result of the Affordable Care Act (so-called "ObamaCare"), data will be collected that will enable policy makers to identify health disparities faced by lgbt people. That data collection will result in better health outcomes for lbgt people, more services, and better access to care, and will help to assure that LGBT people do not face discrimination in the new health insurance marketplace. As part of this effort, some states are trying to incorporate lgbt consumer input into quality of care and consumer satisfaction reporting.

The Department of Health and Human Services has stated that including LGBT health data in national health surveys and reports is one of the "core areas to address regarding improvements to the health and quality of life for LGBT individuals."

Slowly, the information collected on registration forms, medical records, polls, marriage certificates, and other documents will begin to reflect the diversity of our society and the existence of lgbt people. Studies will help count the number of LGBT people. However, no matter how many studies are conducted, or how much paperwork is filled out, if LGBT people do not honestly respond to the surveys or complete office paperwork truthfully, our community will never be accurately counted. By remaining undercounted, we will not receive the services, the resources, the care, the housing, or the status that we deserve in this society. We will continue to be marginalized, ignored, and stigmatized until our true numbers are known and until we all stand up to be counted.

A true accounting may take another generation or two. Over that time, we will miss opportunities for all of us to age more successfully. Being counted in a survey, in the Census, or in a doctor's office takes courage. We do face discrimination when we are visible. The irony is that until we are all visible and counted, ending that discrimination, and aging successfully, will be more difficult for all of us.

Ed Bomba holds a Masters in Business Administration in Marketing from the Pennsylvania State University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Delaware; lectures on AIDS-related topics at the undergraduate level; and is communications chair of Philadelphia's LGBT Elder Initiative. Reprinted with permission from 10,000 Same-sex Couples.



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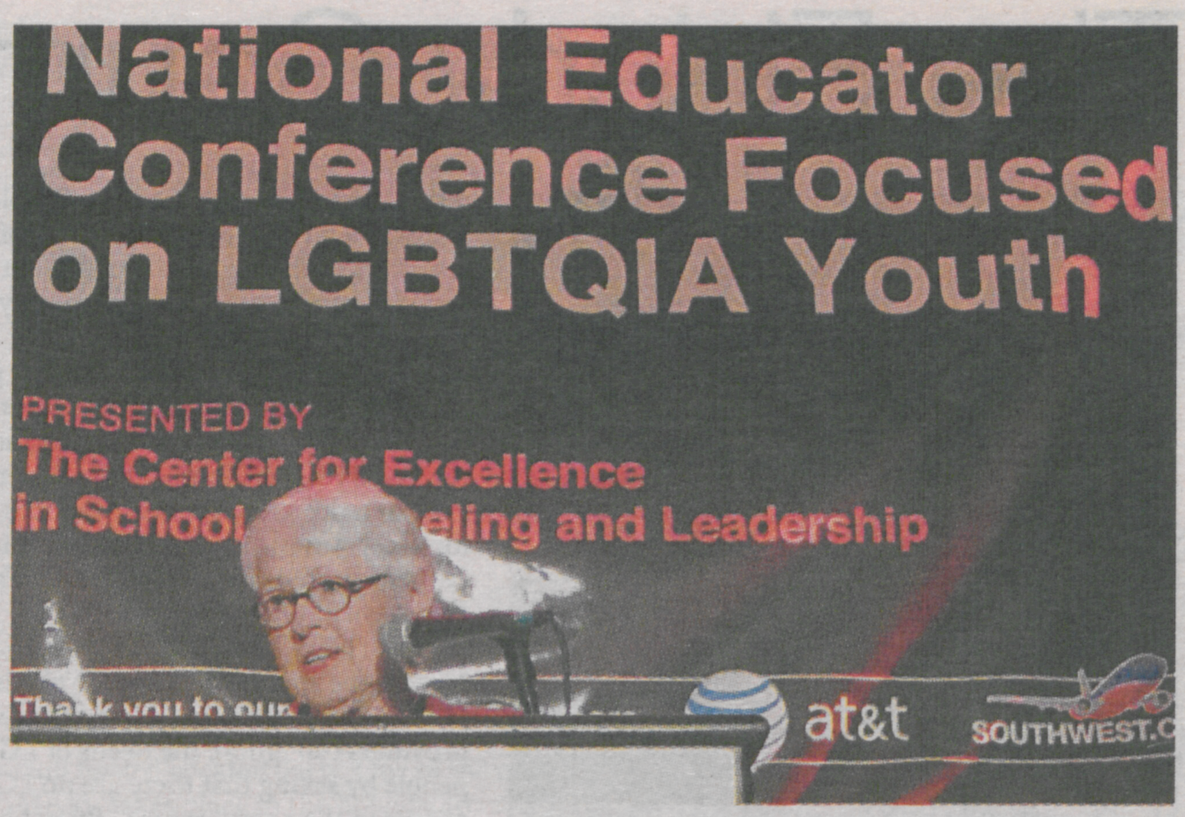


Bettie DeGeneres addresses the National Educator Conference Focused on LGBTQIA Youth, held in San Diego last month. Recent data show eight of 10 LGBT youth have been harassed at school, have a dropout rate nearly three times the national average, and are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight peers, according to the conference organizers. *Photo by Rex Wockner*

REVIEWS | BOOKS DVDs CDs

CINDI LAUPER

Cyndi Lauper: Still So Unusual follows the True Colors Fund co-founder through her "struggle of the juggle" of being a rock star, mother, wife, Broadway composer, New York Times bestselling author, and philanthropist. This season also features the launch of the True Colors Fund's Forty to None Project, the first national organization to solely address the issue of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth homelessness.

SWING OUT SISTER

Now with 20 CDs of studio, live, remixes and compilations, S.O.S. has tirelessly amassed an impressive catalog of originals and covers. Private View finds them picking ten songs for fresh go rounds with studio chatter and intro counts to give fans a peek at their working process. Corinne explains, "We don't like doing songs the same way over and over again so we change them - even if for only one gig. These arrangements were originally created for an east coast tour of America. We were in the last days of rehearsal when a volcano in Iceland erupted, covering Europe in a gigantic ash cloud. We were grounded. Rather than have all that work go to waste, we recorded the arrangements - otherwise no one would have heard them. We'll be onto something completely different in a month!"

ICONA POP

2013 is already proving to be a promising year for Swedish girl duo Icona Pop. Fresh off of the heels of receiving numerous accolades plus making the cut in most Best of 2012 lists, including Rolling Stone Magazine's 'Best Songs of 2012', SPIN Magazine's 'Best Pop Albums of 2012', Pitchfork's 'Top Tracks of 2012', Washington Post's 'Song of the Summer', Entertainment Weekly's 'Best Singles of 2012', Huffington Post's 'Best Song of 2012', Village Voice's 'Pazz+Jop Top Singles of 2012', and Idolator's 'Best Music of 2012', the Icona Pop ladies are now proud to announce they will be supporting Passion Pit and Matt & Kim on the road for their upcoming North American tour, which will include a performance at the legendary Madison Square Garden.

Gay Man Leads Gun Control

Out and gay Mark Glaze, of the D.C.-based political affairs firm the Raben Group, which works on campaign finance reform, government ethics as well as lgbt issues also serves as director of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, the largest gun violence prevention group in the country. "The mass shootings are happening more and more rapidly, and they're becoming more and more deadly," Glaze said. "The Newtown shooting was the second biggest mass shooting in U.S. history after Virginia Tech in 2007. And, you know, the kids who were shot and murdered were my son's age, and it was right before Christmas. So, I think that combination of things has just got the public and the president ready to say, 'Enough is enough, let's finally get this right.'"

Alder Health Expands Mental Health Services

Feeling safe and accepted is important when it comes to selecting mental health services especially if you're a member of the lgbt community. Alder Health Services, an lgbt-friendly service, has expanded their mental health programs in Lancaster and Harrisburg.

The agency also provides primary medical care to the lgbt and other underserved populations, as well as HIV case management services.

Alder Health Services began offering lgbt-focused mental health counseling in January 2011.

"Two years later we're expanding the program to meet the need for services and support in both Lancaster and Harrisburg," CEO Phil Goropoulos tells Central Voice.

During the winter of 2013, the Agency added additional therapeutic staff increasing the number of fulltime counselors on staff by 100%. Five therapists now offer counseling to the community five days per week in both Harrisburg and Lancaster. Joining Elizabeth Leen, LSW, Michael Dolatoski, M.Ed and Michael Jeffrey, LCSW are Kali Thompson, LSW, who will be serving the Lancaster Community.

"Our mental health program is well equipped to address the unique needs of the region's lgbt community. We address depression, anxiety and more," Goropoulos says. The agency's therapists are able to work with transgender individuals to provide the necessary support and documentation necessary to begin the transition process.

To schedule an appointment in Lancaster or Harrisburg please call 1.800.867.1550.

The mental health program is able to accept the following insurance options at this time: Aetna, Capital Blue Cross and Medicare (Harrisburg Only). No insurance is necessary to receive services and uninsured individuals may qualify for Alder Health's sliding fee discount program.

Equality Pennsylvania Poll Results

The fourth poll for Equality Pennsylvania was conducted by the Pittsburgh firm CivicScience. The poll targeted a minimum sample of 1,000 adult Pennsylvanians between Jan. 29 and 30. Final results were reweighted as necessary to represent the full Pennsylvania population based on the 2010 U.S. Census.

The three poll questions and the responses are:

1. Do you agree or disagree that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens should be entitled to the same civil rights and protections as other minority groups?

Response: 62 percent agreed; 29 percent disagreed.

2. Do you agree or disagree that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens should be protected against being fired due to their sexual orientation or gender identity?

Response: 69 percent agreed; 24 percent disagreed. Among self-identified Republicans, 61 percent agreed; 28 percent disagreed.

3. Do you agree or disagree that hotels and other businesses should be allowed to refuse service to people based only on their sexual orientation or gender identity?

Response: 72 percent disagreed; 18 percent agreed. Among self-identified Republicans, 62 percent disagreed; 28 percent agreed.

See page 1 for related story on LGBT Caucus

LGBT Groups Lambast Dr. Oz

GLAAD, the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy and anti-defamation organization, The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe schools for all students and PFLAG National, the nation's largest family and ally organization for LGBT people, lambasted the Dr. Oz Show for his episode debating the merits of so-called reparative therapy. Against all scientific evidence, Dr. Oz positioned a representative of the discredited National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) as an "expert."

The groups called on Dr. Oz to stand with the entire medical community against this so-called therapy, and to tell his LGBT viewers that he does not support the idea that their sexual orientation should be "repaired."

Producers of the Dr. Oz Show framed their program on so-called reparative therapy in a way that provided a lengthy platform for junk science. The first two segments of the show featured two proponents of so-called reparative therapy, neither of whom was challenged, at any point, by Dr. Oz or any guests.

Two "ex-gay" activists, however, were invited to stay and rebut statements by opponents throughout the rest of the program. NARTH representative Julie Hamilton was introduced by Dr. Oz as an "expert" and spoke to countless parents and youth in the audience, as if NARTH's work and practices represent legitimate and acceptable medical practices.

Producers held conversations with GLAAD, GLSEN and PFLAG National leading up to the episode, but did not disclose that a representative of NARTH would be featured. Although the show also featured guests who condemned the idea and practice of "reparative therapy," Dr. Oz himself never weighed in, and the audience was misled to believe that there are actual experts on both sides of this issue. There are not.

NARTH is a splinter group of anti-gay therapists/activists, formed in 1992—according to its founders—in order to "fully understand the homosexual condition and the factors which drive this self-destructive behavior." NARTH co-founder Charles Socarides called gay people "a purple menace that is threatening the proper design of gender distinctions in society." NARTH says it supports clients who seek to "diminish their homosexuality and to develop their heterosexual potential" through therapy.

This idea, which is NARTH's main focus, has been dismissed by every single mainstream health and welfare organization in the country, including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Psychologists, and the National Association of Social Workers. Each of these organizations, and more, has rejected the notion and practice of any therapist attempting to change a client's sexual orientation.

A coalition of 13 national health, mental health, education and religious organizations spearheaded by the American Psychological Association produced "Just the Facts About Sexual Orientation and Youth: A Primer for Principals, Educators and School Personnel" in response to concerns raised by GLSEN in 1999 that schools and parents were receiving inaccurate information on the issue of sexual orientation, particularly about whether youth can change their sexual orientation.

"GLSEN would not have participated in The Dr. Oz Show had we known that NARTH would be represented," said GLSEN Executive Director Dr. Eliza Byard. "The Dr. Oz Show provided a platform to a fringe organization promoting dangerous and harmful practices that every major health, mental health and education organization has consistently repudiated as harmful to youth. As we have since 1999, GLSEN and our partners in the Just the Facts Coalition will continue to hold the line against dangerous misinformation that threatens the wellbeing of youth."

PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby said, "A doctor's first oath is to do no harm, and yet by making the decision to air this show, the harm has already been done. The doctrine espoused by so-called "ex-gay" organizations—that gay people can and should change their sexual orientation—has been condemned by every mainstream professional medical and mental health association. LGBT youth and their families must have access to safe and accurate information, and all responsible medical doctors, psychiatrists, and therapists have a responsibility to convey such information, not offer up dangerous debunked methods as legitimate or as fact. What LGBT youth need is the love, support, and acceptance of their parents, families, and friends, not to be told to change who they are."

The American Medical Association states "(We) oppose any psychiatric treatment, such as "reparative" or "conversion" therapy which is based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that the patient should change his/her homosexual orientation." The AMA also says that "most of the emotional disturbance experienced by gay men and lesbians around their sexual identity is not based on physiological causes but rather is due more to a sense of alienation in an unaccepting environment."

Kim Named to 4 House Committees

PA State Rep. Patty Kim, D-Dauphin, has been appointed to serve on four standing committees in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives during the 2013-14 legislative session. "I am eager to take on these responsibilities," Kim said. "The committee process is an integral part of how a bill becomes a law."

Kim was named to the Consumer Affairs, Human Services, Local Government and Urban Affairs committees. She also was named Democratic chairman of the Urban Affairs Subcommittee on Third Class Cities.

"These posts will help me to be a voice with consumer rights, health care-related issues and so many other issues that have a direct impact on our neighborhoods," Kim said. "My experience on city council will help enable me to be an advocate for the city of Harrisburg, in particular, on the Local Government and Urban Affairs committees. I know what tools third-class cities need to survive and become sustainable and I plan to bring those issues to the table."

Book Review: The Art of Controversy

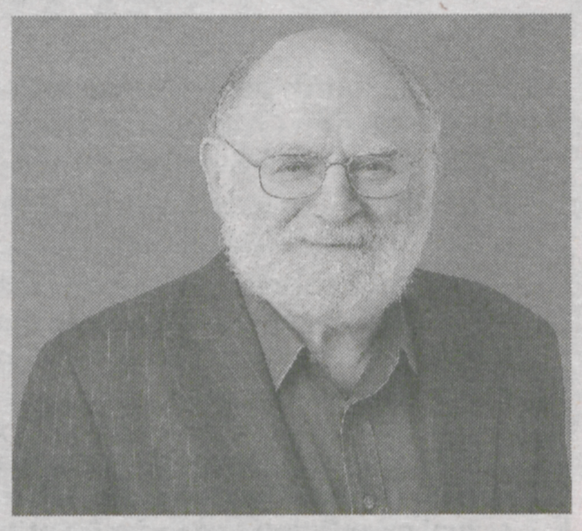
By Alan Kennedy-Shaffer

When I sought out to write a novel a few years ago, I began the second chapter wanting the protagonist to have a revelation upon seeing a Tom Tomorrow cartoon captioned, "The Perfect Storm." It didn't work; the scene was a flop; the novel abandoned. In the process, however, I unwittingly discovered that a profound limitation of the written word is its inability to capture the emotional gravitas of political cartoons. In The Art of Controversy: Political Cartoons and Their Enduring Power, Victor Navasky, the former editor and publisher of The Nation who won national acclaim for his McCarthyism analysis in Naming Names, suggests that political cartoons endure because if a picture is worth a thousand words, a caricature is worth ten thousand words.

Channeling The Nation by combining historical research, philosophical inquiry, and entertaining political anecdotes, Navasky opens his latest book with what is essentially a 40-page introduction to content theory, image theory, and neuroscience theory, followed by a foray into the world of caricature. Choppy but readable, the book ends with 31 vignettes focusing on the contributions of Navasky's favorite caricaturists and cartoonists across the ages, from William Hogarth to Art Young to Ralph Steadman to David Levine, plus a few vignettes about political art selected for its historical significance, such as Pablo Picasso, Der Sturmer, and the Danish Muhammads. I was struck by how Navasky masterfully ties together caricaturists across history.

As Navasky opines, political cartoons and caricatures have a "unique emotional power and capacity to enrage, upset, and discombobulate otherwise rational people and groups and drive them to disproportionate-to-the-occasion, sometimes violent, emotionally charged behavior." The Art of Controversy attributes nineteenth century French King Louis Philippe's decision to criminalize offensive caricatures but not offensive books or pamphlets to the notoriety of caricaturists Charles Philipon and Honore Daumier, known for "Le Poire" and "Gargantua." "Whereas a pamphlet is no more than a violation of opinion, a caricature amounts to an act of violence," the monarch noted. In the King's view, the cartoonist's pen could spark a revolution.

There is another memorable moment in The Art of Controversy when political Boss Bill Tweed recognizes the extraordinary power of the pen, but instead of censoring Thomas Nast's iconic drawings, he offers Nast an "art scholarship." "Stop them damn pictures," Tweed bellowed to the editors of Harper's Weekly. "My constituents can't read. But they can't help seeing them damn pictures!" Similarly, who can forget Herblock's portrayal of President Richard Nixon being welcomed from a manhole, unkempt and unshaven? Even Adolph Hitler acknowledged the power of political cartoons when he wired the British foreign secretary to "Stop publishing [the cartoons of David] Low." Why? Low "showed Hitler less as a monster than as an idiot."



Victor Navasky

Particularly revealing are the author's anecdotal commentaries on the line between editorial discretion and censorship. Early in the book, Navasky makes a compelling argument that Barry Blitt's New Yorker cover featuring then-Senator Barack Obama wearing a turban and fist-bumping Michelle Obama "ran into trouble because it mixed satire and caricature." Because the caricature was "misinterpreted" and caused an "avalanche of threats denunciations, and subscription cancellations," Navasky implies that the artist should have been more careful. By contrast, Navasky defends his decision to publish David Levine's controversial caricature of Henry Kissinger in bed with a naked woman with the Earth for her head, "screwing" the world. Per Navasky, "You can't, or at least shouldn't, decide a question of aesthetics by majority vote."

On a theoretical level, Navasky's distinction between editorial discretion and censorship may seem fraught with the type of reasoning that allows free speech until it clashes with political expediency. On a personal level, though, Navasky's reasoning makes complete sense. After all, here is a staunch civil libertarian who has been tirelessly editing and publishing for decades. He tellingly includes this observation: "Democrats complain to the cartoonist. Republicans go straight to the publisher." When Navasky spoke at the memorial service for my grandmother, Doris Shaffer, he spoke of justice. When Navasky introduced my grandfather, Don Shaffer, for an award from The Nation, he spoke of persistence. The publisher is the last bulwark for truth.

In short, The Art of Controversy makes a compelling case for the outsized and lasting power of political cartoons and caricatures—political almost by their very nature. Although the structure is not as strong as it might be, Navasky's themes easily connect his background study of the reasons why caricature has been controversial for centuries with the vignettes of some of the most important cartoonists and caricaturists that have ever lived. Touching upon politics, history, psychology, philosophy, anthropology, and art, Navasky's (thankfully) illustrated history argues convincingly that there has always been and will always be power in political cartoons.

The Art of Controversy: Political Cartoons and Their Enduring Power
by Victor S. Navasky
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013
ISBN 978-0-307-95720-7

Runners Wanted for Harrisburg 10-Mile "Arts" Run

The third annual Harrisburg regional 10-mile run is set for Sun., April 7, at 9 a.m. and is presented by Open Stage of Harrisburg.

Publicized as "a run for the arts", the Capital 10-Miler will benefit many area arts organizations, including The Art Association of Harrisburg School & Galleries, Gamut Theatre Group, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Market Square Concerts, Open Stage of Harrisburg, Susquehanna Folk Music Society, Theatre Harrisburg, and Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts.

The event will start and finish on City Island, with the course including the riverfront and the Capital Area Greenbelt as well as scenic bridges over the Susquehanna River.

"Our race has attracted a lot of interest over the past two years," reports Mary Lou Harris, the event founder and director, who is a five-time Boston Marathoner and regional arts supporter. "Over 500 runners registered last year and we expect more this year."

Registrants over the years included runners from several Mid-Atlantic and New England states as well as local and regional participants.

Info: www.capital10-miler.com. Registrations may be limited.

Elder Loss: "Pride at Work" Co-founder Howard Wallace Passes

Nov. 14, 2012, Pride at Work President Emeritus Howard Wallace passed away. Wallace, 76, had been struggling with Alzheimer's for several years and was in hospice in San Francisco at the time of his death.

"We lost a champion who paved the way for the work and the victories we see today," said Shane Larson (CWA), Co-President of national Pride at Work. "Times are changing today because of the work of those who came before us."

Wallace served as founding Co-President of Pride at Work, the national constituency group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender workers and allies. Together with President Emerita Nancy Wohlforth, they launched Pride at Work, organizing until it was officially recognized as a formal constituency group affiliated with the AFL-CIO in 1997. Nancy continues to serve on the Pride at Work (P@W) National Executive Board on behalf of the Office & Professional Employees Union (OPEIU.)

P@W national Co-President Lori Pelletier (IAM), who also serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the CT AFL-CIO said, "Howard Wallace fought the fight for justice and equality with courage and vision. The opportunities we have today are thanks to the groundwork from pioneers like Howard Wallace."

Organizing since the 1960's, Wallace was known throughout the movement for his pioneering work bringing together the LGBT community and labor movement. He was a former staff leader of SEIU Local 250 and also dedicated to anti-war efforts.

Wallace was particularly known for his work with Harvey Milk and Allan Baird on the Coors Boycott and opposing the Briggs Initiative. The "Briggs Initiative" ballot measure (1978) was designed to ban gays and lesbians from working in California public schools. It was successfully defeated 58.4% to 41.6%.

In the 1970's, Coors was accused of firing gay and lesbian employees and demanding that workers take lie detector tests including questions about their sexual orientation. The boycott received national labor support in 1977 when nearly 1,500 workers walked off their jobs in protest. Along with the LGBT community, the AFL-CIO and unions across the movement organized tirelessly for the boycott. After a ten-year movement-wide struggle, the boycott effort was finally won in 1987.

Delaware Legislators Debate Marriage

Delaware lawmakers are expected to consider a same-sex marriage bill between now and the end of their current legislative session on June 30. Gov. Jack Markell, who signed the state's civil unions law in 2011, suggested to the Huffington Post last August that state lawmakers could debate a measure that would allow gays and lesbians to tie the knot this year. Spokesperson Catherine Rossi reiterated told the Washington Blade "The governor expects that a marriage equality bill will be worked this session."

Community Center Adds New Programs

By Frank Pizzoli

Since opening last June, the LGBT Community Center of Central Pennsylvania has launched new programs as community groups increasingly rely on the center for space.

"The center's hub is in Harrisburg. We use other spaces throughout the region as needed," explains executive director Louie Marven.

New programs include The LGBT History Project, Gender Variance Discussion Group, Women's Group, and Alcoholics Anonymous which rents space.

Established programs continue. Marven says the center continues to host a gallery within its big front room, visible from its Midtown Harrisburg, 1306 N. Third Street location. During opening receptions for the city's Friday night 3rd in the Burg events, as many as 150 people may visit. The facility also hosts more intimate gatherings like Common Roads, a youth group, ages 14-22, that meets Wednesday evenings. The youth group also meets in Lancaster and Carlisle.

Since opening and continuing to offer established programs, the center also has been used for educational programs, support meetings, pot luck meals, receptions, volunteer training, and even a couple birthday parties. Groups have included Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, Planned Parenthood of Northeast and Mid-Penn, TransCentralPA, and Central Pennsylvania Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

LGBT History Project

The LGBT History Project collects and presents the stories of lgbt history in the region as told by those who lived them. The project relies on written accounts, audio and video interviews, photographs and artifacts illustrating the stories. The plan is to weave the stories together creating a historical timeline and narrative context for the region's history.

"There's a two-part process to our collecting an oral history," explains Lonna Malmsheimer, a retired Dickinson professor who taught oral history and lgbt issues. Malmsheimer and Amy Skillman head up the project. Both hold advanced history and American Studies degrees with extensive oral history experience. Barry Loveland serves as project chair.

The project uses a standard questionnaire to gather demographics and then asks participants a series of "prompt" questions. "We'd like to know how a person first connected to the region's lgbt community, how they've involved themselves with groups and organizations," Malmsheimer explains.

"We'll even explore participants' pre- and post-Stonewall political and social activity so we can show the contrast," Malmsheimer says. On the personal side, if comfortable, participants will be asked about family relations and their own questioning and coming out experiences.

Eventually, the region's lgbt history will be presented on the center's web site and as an exhibit in the center gallery, the second highest attended art space in Harrisburg city's 3rd in the Burg Friday events, according to recent reports by the sponsoring groups.

The project seeks people to sharing their stories and artifacts. Volunteers will receive training in how to interview storytellers, transcribe oral histories. The project also needs hard cash financial support and in-kind donations.

Loveland wanted to chair the effort "because I realized that many trailblazers from our local lgbt community are no longer with us. Others, like myself, are graying," he says. He's always enjoyed hearing "the stories" and a few years ago Loveland assembled a panel of elders for Common Roads, the center's youth group. "Panelists had even more fun reminiscing than the youth did hearing the stories," he remembers. The experience prompted him to writing down some of that history in order to create a framework for local history.

Last year, Loveland and others put together a similar panel for the Central PA LGBT Aging Network (CPLAN). Organizers hailed the program as one of their most successful events. "That's when it came together as a history project under the auspices of CPLAN and the community center.

Members of the newly-formed Women's Discussion Group celebrate 1 Billion Rising Feb. 14 at Harrisburg's Midtown Scholar Bookstore. The worldwide event, celebrated here in the region through the WDG, called for an end to violence against women. *Central Voice Photo*

Women's Group

Creating safe space for women is important to organizers Heidi Notario-Smull, a training professional with Network for Healthy Families and Communities, a project of Casa de Esperanza, and Sarah Newman, founder of Capital L, a lesbian social group offering bar trips, baseball games, skiing (www.facebook.com/CapitalLez). The women's group meets the first Thursday of each month at the center.

"The group creates a community of women who can share common experiences, discuss emerging issues, provide support," says Notario-Smull. About 25-30 women attend the monthly meetings. "Mostly working women and transwomen, and a couple of young retirees," Newman says.

Recent discussion topics have included the cost of health insurance and breast health during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as well as maintaining healthy relationships.

Gender Variance

There is a difference between gender and sex, a difference not always easy to understand.

The Gender Variance Group assembles to discuss "gender and how it affects our lives as a whole," says Hollis Taylor, who's own gender journey has been very complex and not just related to Taylor's orientation. In a blog called "Do I have to choose?" Taylor identifies as "genderqueer" but has mostly abandoned the label of transman.

"My newest blog, "A Butch's Journey," deals with the butch and masculine side that many lesbians experience. It also explores feminism as experienced by Taylor. "So my personal stories are on the Internet for anyone to read." It's all very complex and emotional. (Do I have to choose? transhollis.wordpress.com; A Butch's Journey, abutchjourney.wordpress.com)

"I have always believed something to be wrong with me in my tastes, desires, and simply my preferences. This lead me to hide my inner desires in order to avoid being judged," Taylor says. The group helps Taylor and others who do not "fit into a gender box".

Finding out where one fits started when young.

"Growing up, I would do whatever I could to explore gender, cross dress, present online as female, and learned about alternate genders around the world, Ashley Hope tells Central Voice. "I grew to understand I wasn't a freak, despite what many people around me said." Eventually, Hope became president of Millersville University's Allies group which gave her an opportunity to talk openly about her gender. "I began my transition, starting hormone replacement therapy in 2009," she shares.

Hope's blog is www.ahope4more.wordpress.com

Alcoholics Anonymous

Although not formally called "Gay AA," the newly formed group that meets Sunday at noon is lgbt friendly, says Dennis (not his real name), who helped organize the meeting.

"We figured meeting at the center lgbt people would feel comfortable coming to the group which, so far, draws about a 50/50 split of straight and gay people," Dennis says. Knowing that the youth group Common Roads meets at the center "sends an encouraging message to youth who may have alcohol issues," Dennis explains. They need know there's a safe place to discuss problems.

"Alcoholism within the lgbt community is definitely a problem in the region," Dennis says. He's not sure why there is no lesbian presence in the new group. There are "women only" AA groups in the region. One group meets Monday's on the West Shore and that may be meeting the needs of women.

Anthony, with 16 years sobriety, notes there is a transgender presence at the group. "No matter who you are there's lots of support in the room," he says. Both Anthony and Dennis stress that sharing past experiences as lgbt individuals is helpful in assisting others in establishing sobriety. "We're sensitive to gay issues. We combine that sensitivity within a traditional 12-Step approach," Anthony explains.

For info on lgbt-friendly AA groups in the region, go to AAHarrisburg.org.

For info on community center programs: (717) 920-9534, www.centralpalgbtcenter.org

From left, Sarah Newman, Capital L founder, a lesbian social group, and Heidi Notario-Smull, Network for Healthy Families and Communities, co-organizers of the center's new Women's Discussion Group meeting first Thursday of each month. *Central Voice Photo*

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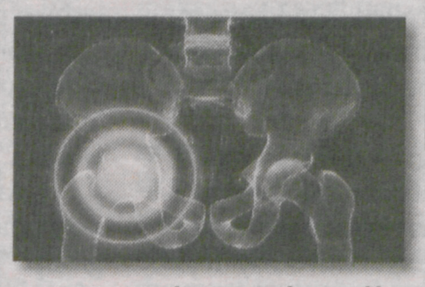

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MD Anti-marriage Donor Active in Supremacist, Secessionist Causes

Human Rights Campaign is calling on the Maryland Marriage Alliance to return the $10,000 donation of Michael Peroutka, an active white supremacist and secessionist sympathizer who was one of the three largest individual donors to the campaign against marriage equality in Maryland.

HRC also calls on the Maryland Catholic Conference, which played a leading role in founding the Maryland Marriage Alliance, to publicly denounce Peroutka's donation. Peroutka is an active member of the League of the South, a neo-Confederate, secessionist organization labeled an "explicitly racist" hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

Filings made available by the Maryland Board of Elections indicate that Michael Peroutka donated $10,000 to MMA on October 31, 2012.

The Maryland Marriage Alliance was founded and funded by the Maryland Catholic Conference and the National Organization for Marriage (NOM). The Roman Catholic Church, along with the Knights of Columbus, contributed almost $425,000 this year to defeat ballot Question 6, with NOM donating $1.2 million.

Peroutka was a featured speaker at the League of the South's national conference this past July, as he was in 2004, 2008, and 2010. According to the SPLC, the League of the South "believes the 'godly' nation it wants to form should be run by an 'Anglo-Celtic' (read: white) elite that would establish a Christian theocratic state and politically dominate blacks and other minorities." The organization says that its relentless pursuit of white supremacy is "healthy and Biblical."

League of the South President Michael Hill has written that white people possess a "God-ordained superiority" and that African Americans "have never created anything approximating a civilization." Its Florida chapter chairman, Michael Tubbs, is, according to the SPLC, a convicted "Aryan" terrorist who amassed a stockpile of weapons and explosives along with a list of targets including businesses owned by Jews and blacks.

Peroutka appeared along with Hill and Tubbs in front of Confederate flags at the League of the South conference, said that he was grateful for the organization's endorsement of his fringe 2004 presidential campaign and remarked that "If this be hate, let's make the most of it." In 2004, he wrote on his blog that "I am proud to be a member of the League of the South. I look forward to receiving the support … from guys with Confederate flags in their trucks."

He has also appeared on a white supremacist radio show called The Political Cesspool. The Montgomery Advertiser reported that one of the bedrock principles of the show Peroutka appeared on is the need to "grow the percentages of Whites in the world relative to other races."

NOM is no stranger to exploiting race as a means of advancing its agenda. Documents obtained by HRC earlier this year revealed NOM's racially divisive strategy to "drive a wedge between gays and blacks" and to "interrupt this process of assimilation by making support for marriage a key badge of Latino identity - a symbol of resistance to inappropriate assimilation."

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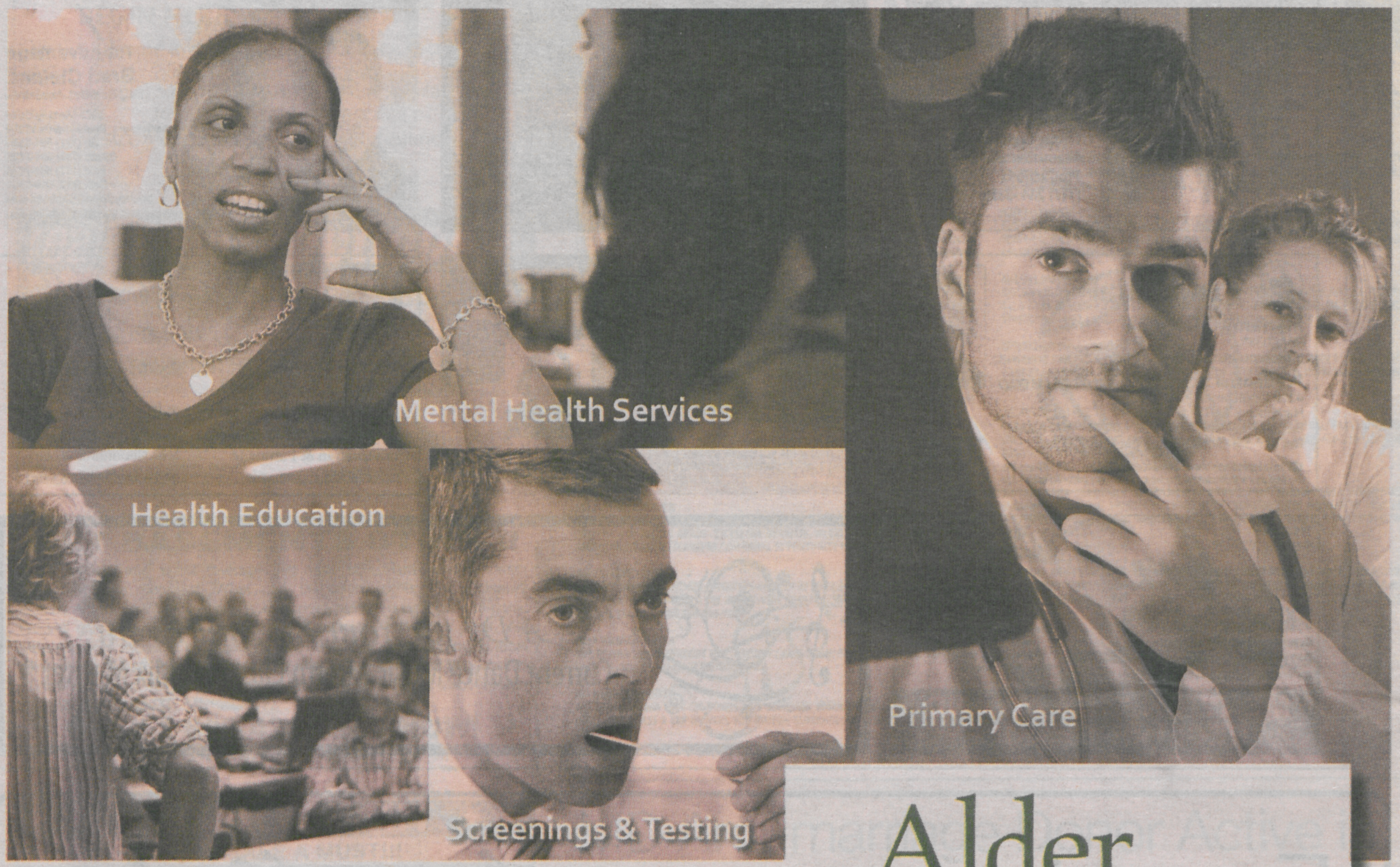
Q: I don't want to have heart disease. Are you saying that if I brush and floss I won't get heart disease?

TdS: No, I am not saying that. What I am saying is that there is a link between the two diseases. The verdict is still out on exactly how they are tied to each other. It's kind of like the chicken and the egg mystery. But let's look at it this way: Why contribute to heart disease if we don't have to?? Brush several times a day. Thoroughly. Get a water pik and use it, every day. Eliminate as much bacteria from getting into your blood stream as possible. See your dentist at least twice a year for regular exams and hygiene appointments. Ask them how good a job you are doing with your home care. Ask them to give you tips on how you can do a better job.

Q: My parents had dentures. I guess after you lose all your teeth, you don't have to worry about all that nasty periodontal bacteria in your bloodstream anymore.

TdS: Guess again. I can't tell you how many folks I see who have dentures or partials who do not know how to properly clean them. As a result, those people still have tons of bacteria coursing through their bloodstream from all the debris and plaque left on those dentures. Even though someone may have full dentures, it is still important for them to come in and see their dentist at least once a year so that we can make sure they are taking good care of their denture and cleaning it well. We also like to do a oral cancer screening at that time and make sure everything looks good. Oral cancers, suspicious lesions may still occur after someone gets dentures. Always better safe than sorry.



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